


LIBRARY
Brigham Young University



GIFT OF
June Bagnell





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Brigham Young University

HISTORY OF CRAWFORD COUNTY IOWA

A RECORD OF SETTLEMENT, ORGANIZATION,
PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

By F. W. MEYERS

Local history is the ultimate substance of national history—WILSON

VOLUME I

ILLUSTRATED

CHICAGO:
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING CO.
1911

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the mingled memories of J. Fred Meyers and Frederick Louis Meyers; to the one, who stood for many years as the champion of the great Brothhood of Man, in which he had such faith and for which he hoped so much; and to the other, who during the short years God gave him, well earned the title, "Little Friend of all the World."

PREFACE

Patriotism is the best asset of a nation. It is patriotism that makes men law-abiding; that urges them to pay their share for the support of government; and that, in times of stress, compels them to go upon the field of battle and lay down their lives for the flag they love.

Love of home is the mother of patriotism. Our lips may sing "My Country," but our hearts sing, "Home, Sweet Home." To the New Englander, patriotism tells of whispering pines and granite hillsides; to the man of the southland, it brings the scent of sweet magnolia blooms, and snowy cotton fields, and live oaks, draped with Spanish moss; to the plainsman, it tells the story of the wide sky line, the sweeping plain, the abrupt, cloud-reaching mountain; to us, it means the rolling, dimpled hills; the tree-clad streams, the fields of waving corn, the happiness and heart-throbs of our own hearthside. It is to foster this patriotism, this love of home, this pride in those who have gone before us, that this history is written.

It is the desire to picture forth the life, the hopes, the aspirations of those pioneers who left the old homes and the old associations and planted themselves upon this wilderness, where Indian bands had roved at liberty, where the wild things of nature abounded, and where only the fullness of God's bounty gave promise of the good that was to come.

It is the purpose to tell of the early struggles of these pioneers; to narrate how the log cabin gave place to the frame dwelling; how the sparse settlements became thriving villages and cities; how the untrodden prairie was made to yield and give forth fruit; and, above all, to give some insight into the hearts of the men and women who made this county what it is today, a happy, prosperous, well contented, law abiding part of the greatest nation that God has given to men.

It was the first intent to write this history as best suited ourselves, but, as we tried to grasp the subject, we found that it grasped us, and we have been content to let it write itself; to follow the trail rather than to lead the way. And how that trail has led us back—back to the days of De Soto and Marquette; back to the Indian camp; through virgin forests with French traders; on to the almost superhuman wisdom of Thomas Jefferson, when he purchased from the warlock Napoleon a mighty empire; along the courses of the great Missouri with the expedition of Lewis and Clark; following the track of Mormonism, until the

iniquitous doctrine of polygamy divided its forces and inspired the best part of its believers to leave the west-bound pilgrimage and to settle in the sweet fields of this, a then new land; on to the promoters, the canny Rhode Islanders, who planned a great city in the very heart of our county; on to the coming of this tide of Eastern emigration; to the Indian scares; to the fevered period of the Civil war; to the building of the railroad; and then to the establishment of schools and churches, and townships and towns, and the upbuilding of our county as we know it today. The trail leads us back to the icy fjords of Sweden; to the Emerald Isle; and to the placid plains of imperial Germany.

The history of this county is a mosaic, composed of the lives, the heart beats, the misfortunes, the successes, the iniquities, the well doing, the hopes and despairs of thousands of men and women. The best that can be hoped for this history is that it, too, shall be a mosaic; that it shall contain not simply the editor's idea of what the history should be, but that it shall be the result of information drawn from a hundred sources; an intimate history; a history that shall get close to the ground, as did the early settler when, with plodding oxen, he turned the virgin soil. Viewed from the telescopic range of the universe, Crawford county is but an ant hill, one of the ninety-nine counties, of one of the forty-eight states, of one of the thousand nations, of one of the myriad globes that rest under the hand of God. It is but an ant hill, but it is our own. Viewed with the microscope of love and sympathy and fellow feeling, it becomes alive with all the tragedies and all the glories and with the essence of all the great accomplishments the son of man has ever known. It is the purpose of this history to inspire each reader with a greater love of home, with a greater love of the civilization of which he is a part, and thus to inspire him with a greater patriotism, a deeper devotion for the Stars and Stripes.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I.

THE BACK TRAIL	9
----------------------	---

CHAPTER II.

E PLURIBUS UNUM	17
-----------------------	----

CHAPTER III.

NO MAN'S LAND.....	21
--------------------	----

CHAPTER IV.

IOWA TERRITORY	29
----------------------	----

CHAPTER V.

THE BIRTH OF CRAWFORD COUNTY	33
------------------------------------	----

CHAPTER VI.

THE PIONEERS	37
--------------------	----

CHAPTER VII.

REMINISCENCES OF THOMAS DOBSON	43
--------------------------------------	----

CHAPTER VIII.

REMINISCENCES OF THOMAS DOBSON—(continued).....	53
---	----

CHAPTER IX.

REMINISCENCES OF THOMAS DOBSON—(concluded)	57
--	----

CHAPTER X.

REMINISCENCES OF B. F. WICKS.....	63
-----------------------------------	----

CHAPTER XI.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT	77
-------------------------	----

CHAPTER XII.

POLITICAL HISTORY OF CRAWFORD COUNTY.....	109
---	-----

CHAPTER XIII.

ELECTIONS	113
-----------------	-----

CHAPTER XIV.

LEGISLATIVE, JUDICIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL HISTORY.....	125
--	-----

CHAPTER XV.

BEGINNINGS OF DENISON	131
-----------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XVI.

LIFE OF J. W. DENISON.....	135
----------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XVII.

EARLY DENISON DAYS	141
--------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE SECOND DECADE	151
-------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XIX.

THIRD DECADE (1870-1880).....	163
-------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XX.

A YEAR BOOK OF HISTORY (1880-1900).....	181
---	-----

CHAPTER XXI.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY (1900).....	215
-----------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXII.

DENISON ORGANIZATIONS	237
-----------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXIII.

CHURCHES	251
----------------	-----

CHAPTER XXIV.

CRAWFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS.....	295
------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXV.

THE SOLDIERS OF CRAWFORD IN THE CIVIL WAR.....	329
--	-----

CHAPTER XXVI.

PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATIONS	343
-------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXVII.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR	347
----------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXVIII.

BANKS AND BANKING	351
-------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXIX.

THE PRESS	359
-----------------	-----

CHAPTER XXX.

THE OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION.....	369
------------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXXI.

THE DEATH ROLL OF THE PIONEERS.....	375
-------------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXXII.	
A CHAPTER OF TRAGEDIES.....	381
CHAPTER XXXIII.	
ACCIDENTAL DEATHS	385
CHAPTER XXXIV.	
MISCELLANEOUS	391
CHAPTER XXXV.	
ARION	403
CHAPTER XXXVI.	
CHARTER OAK	407
CHAPTER XXXVII.	
DELOIT	413
CHAPTER XXXVIII.	
KIRON AND THE SWEDISH SETTLEMENT.....	417
CHAPTER XXXIX.	
NISHNABOTNY AND MANILLA	423
CHAPTER XL.	
SCHLESWIG AND THE GERMANS.....	433
CHAPTER XLI.	
UNION TOWNSHIP AND DOW CITY.....	439
CHAPTER XLII.	
VAIL AND VICINITY	457
CHAPTER XLIII.	
WEST SIDE	465
CHAPTER XLIV.	
OTHER TOWNS OF THE COUNTY.....	473
CONCLUSION	475



J. W. Meyers

History of Crawford County

CHAPTER I.

THE BACK TRAIL.

“And that was a million years ago,
In a time that no man knows.”

“CRAWFORD, a co. in w. Iowa, intersected by Boyer river, and the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad; 720 sq. m.; pop. 1890, 18,894. Co. seat, Denison.”
—International Cyclopædia, p. 437.

Let us start at the beginning, and what better beginning than the accurate and complete information contained in the encyclopædia? Surely, if humility is a virtue to be cultivated, nothing could be more conducive to its growth. And yet, if this were all, there would be but little need to write a history, and while from the cyclopædic view this may be all to which we are entitled, we feel that we have earned a larger place; that the men who have sent forth, the civilization we have developed, the part we have taken in the progress of the United States is worthy of more extended comment. Nevertheless, it is well to be humble; well to consider ourselves as but a part of the great whole. It is for the purpose of thus identifying ourselves, of attaching ourselves to the great movement of the ages, that we take the backward trail.

While the English, whom we are proud to recognize as the first cousins of this county, were striving to gain a foothold upon the shores of the Atlantic, the continental nations were not idle. Spain followed the discoveries of Columbus with many gallant expeditions. Magellan sailed through the straits that bear his name and was the first to circumnavigate the globe. Their chief pursuit was gold. They were bent on deeds that bordered 'twixt war and piracy. They sought the gold of the Incas, the riches of the Montezumas, the fountain of perpetual youth. It was while on some such quest that De Soto discovered the Mississippi river in 1540 and thus was the first of Caucasian blood to set eyes upon the waters that had laved the valleys of what was later to be known as “CRAWFORD, a co. in w. Iowa.”

The French, who followed the Spaniards in the quest of the new world, were of a more sedate type. They were not adventurers, but traders and missionaries; again differentiated from the English, who were settlers. It was thus that in 1673 Father Marquette, a missionary from France, a member of the Society of Jesus, and Joliet, a typical Canadian trader, glided down the

wide river in their birch canoes and, reaching the Father of Waters, first saw the shores of Iowa. They passed down the Mississippi, stopping at an Indian village near the mouth of the Des Moines river, and were welcomed by the red men who inhabited the land. There is something pathetic in this welcome, when the squaws hastened to build the fires before the tepee doors, when the venison steaks were broiled, when the pipe of peace was presented, and, in the name of the Great Spirit, the chiefs welcomed their white brothers to their homes. Could Manitou have told them what the future had in store, what would their reception have been? Could they have foretold that their proud tribes were to be scattered, that their council fires were to be quenched, that the wild deer were to be driven from their hunting grounds and that, at last, they were to remain a beggarly, ill kempt, despised remnant, living, without hope, upon the generosity of a conquering race, what would their reception have been?

And all this carries us back. Can you picture an Iowa without a house? A vast rolling prairie with the tall grass waving higher than the heads of man, with virgin forests, with herds of buffalo and droves of deer, with only the curling smoke of the wigwam to show that man was near? Yet such was the land primeval. Such was Iowa, almost within the memory of man. The Indians receded from the tide of encroaching whites, ever driven westward, fighting on the one hand with their new come oppressors and on the other hand with their own brethren to gain a foothold and a place of habitation.

The Sioux were the first known who used what was eventually to become Crawford county as their hunting ground. They established no villages and gave no evidences of any settled claim upon the land, save perhaps in some mounds, intrenchments, or lookouts which were found years afterward near where the county home is now being erected, a few miles down the Boyer valley from Denison. The Omahas and the Otoes followed, driving the Sioux to the plains of the Dakotas and Minnesota, there to become the terror of the white inhabitants for many years, and even to head thieving and marauding raids as far south as this county a number of years after the first white settlements were made. The first official mention which we have of the Pottawattamies, after whom our neighboring county is named, was in a treaty in which the western line of Pennsylvania was mentioned as the eastern boundary of their domain. But the Pottawattamies were crowded westward, ever westward, until for a short time they were domiciled by a beneficent government in western Iowa, and the southern portion of Crawford county was in their reservation. The Ayowways (Iowas,) the Sacs and Foxes, and the Winnebagoes were other Indian tribes, driven by the white hand of fate from the woodlands of the north and east to the open prairies beyond the Mississippi. These tribes occupied at one time eastern and central Iowa and it was from the first of these that our great state has its name, but the roving bands of red men, chasing the buffalo and the deer, snaring the birds, trapping the mink and the otter, in this part of Iowa were Sioux, or their immediate followers, the Otoes, the Omahas, and later the Pottawattamies.

The French had in the meantime made discovery and settlement at the mouth of the Mississippi. Through this they laid claim to all the country tributary to

that great stream, and this was reenforced by their discoveries and settlements to the north. For a long time it was a question whether this region came under the jurisdiction of Louisiana or of New France, with its seat of government at Quebec. In fact the first seat of government, to which a white man in this part of the world might have appealed for redress for his wrongs, was at the northern fortress, and Quebec may be styled the first capital of Iowa. Later it was conceded that the territory now included in Iowa came within the jurisdiction of Louisiana, with its seat of government at New Orleans.

Speaking of the Indians at this time, Rev. William Salter, to whose well written work, "Iowa—the First Free State in the Louisiana Purchase," we owe much, speaks as follows:

"Rivers were the Indian highways of transportation in canoes of birch bark. These were of graceful construction, built without hammer or nail, but strong, of large carrying capacity, yet so light as to be easily carried over a portage from one river to another."

The aborigines were in a low state of barbarity. They had no arts, or trades. They knew nothing of writing or numbers beyond the ten fingers. Their tools, or implements, were shells, fish bones, the bones of wild animals, clubs and spears of wood. They knew not the use of stone in building, or of lime and sand, or how to construct a chimney. Their tents were put up with poles and sticks, covered with skins, or with mats made of bark and rushes. Their clothing was of skins. At feasts and on show occasions they smeared the face and body, put feathers on their heads, and strung bear claws about the neck. They had no iron, wax, or oil. They made fire by rubbing sticks. They had no horses, cows, sheep, hogs, chickens; only dogs. They knew not the use of milk. Their subsistence was from fishing and hunting in which they were expert, and from little cornfields and melon patches, cultivated by the squaws. The men hated labor. Nothing roused them to action but war and the chase. To hunt, fish, and pursue and scalp an enemy, was their life. On marches the squaws carried the pack burdens; on hunting expeditions they dressed the skins, jerked the buffalo meat, and put up the lodges at night.

"The savages had hardly a conception of property, or it was limited to a few things that were held in common rather than as personal belongings. They had no idea of money, or sense of value. In their wandering life they knew nothing of land ownership. The earth is our common mother, they said, and land and water are free as air and light. When we speak of the Indians selling their land, or of our people buying their land, we use the language of civilization, not that of the savages."

Is it to be wondered that these wild, irresponsible children of nature failed to understand the orderly, property-loving French and English, and that they hated them with a hatred that was only tempered by their fear? While the discovery of the northern reaches of the Mississippi by Marquette, and the subsequent discoveries which led to the opening of lead mines by Perrot in the vicinity of Dubuque, gave the French nominal control over all this territory, it remained an abysmal wilderness.

We speak of the Italian, the French and the Spanish as Romance languages. Much of this Romance shows itself in the French as well as in the Spaniards.

They, too, were largely on a quest for gold and silver. The grosser metals, the fine spun gold yielded by the dark rich loam of the Mississippi valley, did not appeal to their hardy, adventurous spirits. In 1700 a party of French miners, headed by Le Sueur, sailed up the Mississippi where they encountered Canadian traders and trappers coming down the great river. The French held possession of this territory for nearly a century. Louis XIV dreamed vague dreams and squandered fortunes for the establishment of a mighty empire in the western world, but he was hampered by the great and growing unrest in his own country and by continual war with other countries, so that at one time all the stations on the Mississippi from the south were abandoned and even the traders returned to their far Canadian homes, leaving this territory in the undisputed control of the Indians. Nevertheless France did not relinquish its theoretical claim, and it was in 1764 that Laclede established a settlement at St. Louis, from which point traders and trappers penetrated all the vast wilderness of the upper Mississippi and lower Missouri.

We do not know, but we have imagined that a certain man named "Bowyer" was among his followers. We can almost see him, with his suave French manner but partly concealing his intrepid spirit, the rifle upon his shoulder, the buck-skin trousers, the cap of skin upon his head, the mocassins upon his feet, as he led his little band of soldiers towards the sources of the mighty stream, Missouri. We say we do not know, and it is true, but there must have been such a man and he must have traveled through this very country at, or about that time. Whether he was French, or English, we cannot know of a certainty; whether he came from the south or the north, or the east, we know not for a fact. But this we do know, that in 1801 a French writer speaking of his "Travels in Louisiana" tells that he passed up the Missouri river, passing the mouth of "Bowyer's river" and proceeding thence to the mouth of "Soldier's river." He speaks of these rivers not as discoveries, not as rivers to which he gave nomenclature, but *as rivers which had already been named*. Again, in 1804, the annals of the Lewis and Clark expedition tell us that these great explorers who gave the knowledge of a mighty empire to the world, camped for the night at the mouth of the Boyer's river, and they, also, speak of the river as one which had already received its name. Here is the link, if any be needed, which binds us to an adventurous past; which tells us that our own streams, which were the sources of so many stolen delights in the days of our youth, the peaceful, little, muddy streams known to us every day, were named and known of white men even while the thirteen colonies of which we are so proud were bending beneath the yoke of England's imbecile Kings.

In passing, let us quote from the records of the Lewis and Clark expedition, for they are the first English words written concerning the rivers upon which we live:

All preparation being completed we left our encampment on Monday, May 14, 1804. . . . On July 28, 1804, having gone one mile, this morning, we reached a bluff, on the north, being the first highlands which approach the river on that side since we left the Nadawa (Nodaway.) Above this is an island, and a creek about fifteen yards wide, which, as it has no name, we called Indian Knob creek, from a number of round knobs bare of timber, on the

highlands to the north. (This stream is what is now called Indian creek, running through the city of Council Bluffs, near the present Chicago and Northwestern station.) "A little below the bluff, on the north, is the spot where the Ayauway Indians formerly lived. They were a branch of the Otoes, and emigrated from this place to the river Desmoines. At ten and three-quarter miles, we encamped on the north, opposite an island in the middle of the river. The land, generally, on the north, consists of high prairie and hills, with timber; on the south, low, and covered with cottonwood.

Sunday, July 29th, having sent an invitation to the Indians to meet us above on the river we proceeded. We soon came to a northern bend in the river, which runs within twenty yards of Indian Knob creek, the water of which is five feet higher than that of the Missouri. In less than two miles we passed Boyer's creek on the north, of twenty-five yards width. We stopped to dine under a shade near the highland on the south, and caught several large catfish, one of them nearly white, and all very fat. Above this highland we observed the traces of a great hurricane, which passed the river obliquely from the northwest to the southeast and tore up large trees, some of which, perfectly sound and four feet in diameter, were snapped off near the ground. The Missouri is much more crooked since we passed the river Platte, though, generally speaking, not so rapid; more of prairie with less timber, and cotton wood on the low grounds, and oak, black walnut, hickory, and elm.

July 30. We went early in the morning three and a quarter miles and encamped on the south in order to wait for the Otoes. The land here consists of a plain above the high water level, the soil of which is fertile and covered with a grass from five to eight feet high, interspersed with copses of large plums, and a currant, like those of the United States. It also furnishes two species of honeysuckle, one growing to a kind of shrub, the other not so high; the flowers grow in clusters, are short, and of a light pink color; the leaves, too, are distinct and do not surround the stalk as do those of the common honeysuckle of the United States. Back of this plain is a woody ridge about seventy feet above it, at the end of which we formed our camp. This ridge separates the lower from a higher prairie, of a good quality, with grass ten or twelve inches in height, and extending back about a mile to another elevation of eighty or ninety feet, beyond which is one continued plain. Near our camp, we enjoy a most beautiful view from the bluffs of the river and the adjoining country. At a distance, varying from four to ten miles, and of a height between seventy and three hundred feet, two parallel ranges of highland afford a passage to the Missouri, which enriches the low grounds between them. In its winding course it nourishes the willow islands, the scattered cottonwood, elm, sycamore, linn and ash, and the groves are interspersed with hickory, coffeenut and oak.

July 31. The meridian altitude of this day made the latitude of our camp forty-one degrees, eighteen minutes and one and four-tenths seconds. The hunters supplied us with deer, turkeys, geese and beaver; one of the last was caught alive and in a very short time was perfectly tamed. Catfish are very abundant in the river, and we have also seen a buffalo-fish. One of our men brought in yesterday an animal called by the Pawnees chocartoosh, and by

the French, blaireau, or badger. The evening is cool, yet the mosquitoes are very troublesome.

We waited with much anxiety the return of our messenger to the Otoes. The men whom we despatched to our last encampment returned without having seen any appearance of its having been visited. Our horses, too, had strayed; but we were so fortunate as to recover them at the distance of twelve miles. Our apprehensions were at length relieved by the arrival of a party of about fourteen Otoes and Missouri Indians, who came at sunset on the second of August, accompanied by a Frenchman who resided among them and interpreted for us. Captains Lewis and Clark went out to meet them and told them that we would hold a council in the morning. In the meantime we sent them some roasted meat, pork, flour and meal, in return for which they made us a present of watermelons. We learned that our man Liberte had set out from their camp a day before them; we were in hopes that he had fatigued his horse, or lost himself in the woods, and would soon return; but we never saw him again.

August 3. The next morning the Indians, with their six chiefs, were all assembled under an awning, formed with the mainsail, in the presence of all our party, paraded for the occasion. A speech was then made, announcing to them the change in the government, our promises of protection, and advice as to their future conduct. All the six chiefs replied to our speech, each in his turn, according to rank; they expressed their joy at the change in the government; their hopes that we would recommend them to their great father (the President), that they might obtain trade and necessities; they wanted arms, as well for hunting as for defense, and asked our mediation between them and the Mahas, with whom they are now at war. We promised to do so, and wished some of them to accompany us to that nation which they declined, for fear of being killed by them. We then proceeded to distribute our presents. The grand chief of the nation not being of the party we sent him a flag, a medal, and some ornaments for clothing. To the six chiefs who were present, we gave a medal of the second grade to one Otoe chief and one Missouri chief; a medal of the third grade to two inferior chiefs of each nation—the customary mode of recognizing a chief being to place a medal round his neck, which is considered among his tribe as a proof of his consideration abroad. Each of these medals was accompanied by a present of paint, garters, and cloth ornaments of dress; and to this we added a cannister of powder, a bottle of whiskey, and a few presents to the whole, which appeared to make them perfectly satisfied. The airgun, too, was fired, and astonished them greatly. The absent grand chief was an Otoe named Weahrushhah, which in English degenerates into Little Thief. The two principal chieftains were Shongotongo, or Big Horse; and Wethea, or Hospitality; also Shosguscan, or White Horse, an Otoe; the first an Otoe, the second a Missouri. The incidents just related induced us to give to this place the name of the Council-bluff; the situation of it is exceedingly favorable for a fort and trading factory, as the soil is well calculated for bricks, and there is an abundance of wood in the neighborhood, and the air being pure and healthy. It is also central to the chief resorts of the Indians; one day's journey to the Otoes;

one and a half to the great Pawnees; two days from the Mahas; two and a quarter from the Pawnees Loups village; convenient to the hunting grounds of the Sioux; and twenty-five days journey to Santa Fe.

The ceremonies of the council being concluded we set sail in the afternoon, and encamped at the distance of five miles, on the south side, where we found the mosquitoes very troublesome.

The above gives a very vivid picture of the Missouri valley as first authentically reported by white men. While this intrepid band followed the course of the river and did not penetrate the interior, either to the east or the west, for any great distance, still we will all recognize the picture and be glad to learn of these first white men who captured the large, succulent catfish, the diminutive descendants of which have for the most part eluded us until this day.

The Lewis and Clark expedition went on and on, penetrating the wilderness to the very sources of the Missouri, crossing the mountains and adding Oregon and the great northwest to the domain of the United States. The careful reader will have noted with amusement the apparent astonishment with which the scribe of the expedition notes that the plants and flowers of western Iowa "are like those of the United States."

We have outrun our story and must retrace our steps. At the time of the French discoveries all western Europe was at war. Louis XIV, who said "I am the state," was the central figure of all this turmoil. Not only had his dauntless explorers added a great new world to his domain, but a larger part of what is now Germany had come beneath his sway and the fates of England and Holland stood trembling in the balance. William of Orange was raised up to combat the ferocious greed of the French king. War succeeded war, and each war upon the soil of Europe found its echo in the wildernesses of North America, where the French and Indians made common cause against the English settlers. In 1759 the great stronghold of Quebec was captured, France was humiliated, the Canadies were lost, and it was feared that an English fleet might capture New Orleans and thus take away the last vestige of French control in America. Louis XV was then on the throne of France and he made a secret treaty with Charles the III of Spain, in which New Orleans and all the country west of the Mississippi was ceded to the latter government. This cession was later acknowledged and accepted January 1, 1763, in the treaty of Paris.

It must be confessed that this change of ownership made little difference as to the actual control of the hills and vales of Iowa, or of Crawford county, but it is interesting to know that for forty years the land in which we live was a part of the Spanish kingdom. But again the tides of European warfare affected, nominally at least, the affairs of far off, unheard of, unthought of Iowa. Another monarch was raised up in France, mightier than Louis XIV, more aggressive, more rapacious, and far more capable, than his Bourbon predecessor. The great Napoleon rushed through Europe like a mighty hurricane of power, uprooting old dynasties, almost depopulating vast regions, and changing the map of the civilized world. It was in 1800 that, by a second treaty, negotiated by Lucien Napoleon, Spain was compelled to re-

trocede Louisiana to France. In the same way, however, that Louis XIV was stricken down by the English hand of fate, so was Napoleon to feel the resistless strength of British arms. Just in the same way also that the Bourbon king was forced to cede his American territory in order to prevent it falling into the hands of the British, so the French emperor was forced to give over Louisiana into the hands of the then new American nation to save it from English invaders.

The story of the Louisiana purchase need not be retold here in full. It was first proposed by Napoleon, the offer, however, including only New Orleans and territory east of the Mississippi. Thomas Jefferson was quick to grasp the opportunity and appointed Robert R. Livingston and James Monroe as plenipotentiaries to conduct the negotiations. With one of those sudden flashes of genius, which enabled the great Napoleon to forsake one cherished object in pursuit of one still more cherished, he suddenly turned the course of the negotiations and offered to the astonished Americans the entire French possessions in North America, although at a sum largely in excess of that which they had been instructed to pay. Fifteen million dollars was the price—a huge sum in those days, although Crawford county, not the thousandth part of those possessions, could hardly be purchased for a like sum now. To the credit of the Americans let it be said that they realized the great possibilities almost at once. This was shown in the fact that they did not hesitate; that no quibbles as to authority or constitutionality were allowed to interfere, but that, with characteristic American energy, the great transaction was concluded, rushed through Congress, and the purchase made before the French emperor had opportunity to change his mind.

While Napoleon parted with this vast region for a song, under the circumstances he did well and wisely. The money served to fill his depleted coffers at a time of urgent need, and an overpowering English fleet had already been detailed to the capture of New Orleans and the consequent wresting of Louisiana from the French, when the cession was made known. It was thus, on April 30, 1803, that this became an integral part of the United States of America.

CHAPTER II.

E. PLURIBUS UNUM.

"The world turned on in the lathe of time."

The details of the early government of this territory after it came into the possession of the United States, are perhaps dry and uninteresting. Nevertheless they are necessary to one who would know of the various steps by which we merged from the common wilderness, and how, gradually, Iowa, and at last Crawford county, came into their own. It must be confessed that for many decades it made but little difference to the wild inhabitants of this vast country whether they owed allegiance to the lilies of France, to the lion of Great Britain, or to the milk white stars of the United States. The Indians had grown used to treaties, and, we regret to say, that they had grown used to bad faith. They seemed to have made these pacts with little regard either for their own subsequent rights, or the rights of others. As Black Hawk naively put it, he made treaties with both the English and the Americans because he preferred to have two fathers instead of one.

Iowa, and all the west, was still a fighting ground, not only between the whites and the Indians, but between the Americans and the British, the latter being represented by the large trading influences which came down the rivers from Canada and which incited the Indians to warfare against the authority of the United States. All these influences served to retard settlement and to keep the Mississippi and Missouri valleys beyond the ken of white men, long after other states had been occupied.

The first congressional action extending the power and sovereignty of the United States over this region was on March 26, 1804. Even at that time the slavery question entered into the character of National legislation, for the long struggle between humanity and commercialism, which has not ceased to this day, had already begun. Accordingly, therefore, the territory of Louisiana was divided into two parts, the thirty-third degree of north latitude, about the north line of Arkansas, being fixed as the dividing line. The southern portion was constituted the territory of Orleans, while the northern portion was named the district of Louisiana, and its government was vested in the governor and judges of Indiana territory, which at this time extended to the east side of the Mississippi. It was on October 1, 1804, that William Henry Harrison,

governor of Indiana, made formal entry into St. Louis and took his place as governor, also, of the district of Louisiana. Governor Harrison entered into a treaty about this time with the Sacs and Foxes, in which they formally ceded lands to the United States, but the region on the west side of the Mississippi from the Missouri to the Sioux country, remained in the Indians hands.

Indiana was a free territory, and this was obnoxious to the people of St. Louis, the most of whom had come from New Orleans and down the river, and they remonstrated to congress, the result being that, after remaining nine months as a part of Indiana, the district of Louisiana became the territory of Louisiana, July 4, 1805, General James Wilkinson being the first governor. This made Iowa again slave territory. The next transition was when the people of Orleans territory organized a state government and named it Louisiana. This state was admitted in 1812 and congress gave another name to the territory of Louisiana, calling it the territory of Missouri. William Clark was the first and only governor of this territory.

This was at the time of the second war with Great Britain and this section, especially along the shores of the Mississippi, was the scene of incessant warfare between hostile tribes of red men, aided in some cases by the British and in others by Americans. The close of the war, followed by comparative peace with the Indians, caused a great influx of emigration. The population of Missouri doubled in five years. Government agencies were active and fur traders swarmed the country exchanging beads, and cloth, and whiskey for the valuable pelts which the Indians procured. In 1819 a steamboat, "The Western Engineer" came up the Missouri river as far as Council Bluffs, at which place, under the direction of John C. Calhoun, then secretary of war, a frontier fort was erected. The admission into the union of the state of Illinois, in 1818, caused much unrest and dissatisfaction among the people of Missouri, who felt that they, too, should be incorporated into the membership of states. They presented a memorial to congress in which they represented that their population was but little short of one hundred thousand, and that was increasing with unparalleled rapidity. They asked that the boundaries of the territory be reduced and that Missouri be admitted as a state. The reduced boundaries, however, included about one-half of the state of Arkansas, almost the entire present state of Missouri, and that portion of Iowa south and west of Davenport. One reason which Missourians advanced for urging such boundaries was as follows: "The districts of country that are fertile and susceptible of cultivation are small, and separated from each other at great distances by immense plains and barren tracts, which must for ages remain waste and uninhabited. These frontier settlements can only become important and respectable by being united, and one great object is the formation of an effectual barrier against Indian incursions, by pushing a strong settlement on the Little Platte to the west, and on the Des Moines to the north."

How short-sighted is man, how dwarfed his intellect! Where would one search today, in all the broad acres of Missouri and Iowa, for those "barren tracts which must for ages remain waste and uninhabited."

Again the dark shadow of human slavery fell upon our land. Missouri desired admission, but it desired to enter as a slave state, and it placed its de-

sire to traffic in human flesh even above its wish to become a part of the Union. In congress the discussion was almost entirely upon this question and the debates of that day contain some of the most burning and eloquent passages of American oratory. The whole country was fired with the discussion of this great question, the forerunner of the Civil war. The north declared that the territory of the Louisiana purchase should be free; the south claimed Missouri as its own. The territory of Arkansas was formed and the motion to prohibit slavery in it failed, thus adding fuel to the flames. The legislatures of Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Indiana joined in condemnation of any movement to extend the evil of slavery. The southern states were equally positive in their resolution to the contrary. Slave owners in Missouri held public meetings and declared their right under the constitution and under the treaty with France, to carry slaves into Missouri and to keep them there in bondage. In the next congress the debate was resumed with redoubled vigor and it was at this time that the well known "Missouri compromise" was introduced. The admission of Maine was made conditional upon the admission of Missouri. The senate passed the bill admitting Missouri as a slave state, and this compromise was forced upon the house. While called a compromise it was in reality a great victory for the slave holding states, and gave them an ascendancy which they held, almost without interruption, until the time of the Civil war. Missouri was admitted as a slave state, but fortunately its boundaries were restricted and it was declared that states thereafter carved from the great Louisiana purchase should be free. Congress refused the state of Missouri a northern boundary to extend from the mouth of the Rock river, and reduced it almost to its present dimensions, the line running from the western border of the state through the rapids of the River Des Moines, and thence to the Mississippi. It is a serious comment upon the intelligence and state-craft of that day, that when the territory of Missouri was dissolved, one part being organized as Arkansas territory, another as the state of Missouri, for the remainder, including Iowa, Minnesota, the Dakotas, and all the vast territory north and west to the British line, no provision was made for any sort of territorial government.

CHAPTER III.

NO MAN'S LAND.

“For we lived by blood and the right of might,
'Ere human laws were drawn.”

The period from 1821 to 1834 is the darkest of our history. Iowa was a sort of no man's land. It was, to the north, what the Indian Territory was, later, to the south, and more. The Indian trading posts vouchsafed by Jefferson and fostered by Calhoun, were abandoned. Ten thousand savages, six thousand of them Sacs and Foxes, one thousand Iowas, one or two thousand Otoes, Pottawattamies and Omahas in western Iowa, perhaps one thousand roving Sioux in the northern part, comprised the population of this great state, with the exception of what was known as the “half-breed strip” along the Missouri line. At one time it was seriously contemplated that this region should be permanently given over to the Indians. The American Fur Company, which was the foundation of the Astor millions, had its representatives scattered throughout the state. We have record of one trader who established headquarters “ninety miles west from a point on the Des Moines river, near Boone.” Whiskey was one of the chief articles of commerce and under its malevolent influence the red men were incited to deeds most dastardly. War, pestilence and famine thinned their ranks, taking heavy toll from young and old. It was the policy of the United States to abandon Iowa to Indian control, and it was expressly stated in various treaties that the government desired no cession of lands in Iowa. This policy even went so far that white miners were driven from the vicinity of Dubuque and the mines were restored to the Sacs and Foxes, whose squaws worked them without intelligence or vigor. There were vast regions of the east still to be settled. It was lodged in the popular mind that Iowa was a barren, inhospitable country. If the people of Missouri could solemnly declare that it was composed of barren tracts and that “ages must pass before it would be inhabited,” we can, perhaps, hardly blame the people of the eastern states for believing them and being willing to leave such an unkindly region to the aborigines. Indeed, had it not been for the warlike Black Hawk, it is probable that Iowa would have remained still longer a “terra incognita.”

Black Hawk and his tribe were driven, by treaty and by force of arms, from place to place in the state of Illinois, and finally across the Mississippi. Black Hawk longed for the home of his fathers, for the hunting-ground of his youth, for the hills and streams he had known in his young manhood. He did not feel the binding force of any treaty and, in spite of the wiser counsel of Keokuk and other chiefs, he led the young braves in fierce revolt. Settlements were raided, homes were burned, men, women and children were killed and scalped. The strong arm of the government was invoked and, after a series of bloody and hard fought battles, Black Hawk and his braves were subdued. It was then that the United States, for the first time, seemed to see the advisability of obtaining a foothold west of the Mississippi and north of Missouri. The result was the acquirement of what is known as the Black Hawk purchase. The commissioners of the United States, headed by Major General Winfield Scott and Governor Reynolds, of Illinois, met with the Indians in 1832. They demanded as indemnity for the cost of the war, and to secure the safety of the citizens of Illinois, that the Indians should cede a portion of their superfluous territory bordering on the frontier. The United States asked and obtained a cession along the west bank of the Mississippi about one hundred and ninety-five miles in length and from forty to fifty miles in width. The government agreed to pay the Sacs and Foxes the sum of twenty thousand dollars annually for thirty years, and Black Hawk, his sons, and other leading warriors, were held as hostages for the future good conduct of the band. The Indians agreed to remove from these ceded lands on or before June 1, 1833. Scott county is named after the general who concluded this treaty.

It is interesting to note, however, that the first cession of land by the Indians to the United States was made not in eastern but in western Iowa. In 1825 a treaty was made in which it was expressly stated that no lands were to be ceded to the United States, but in which it was attempted to fix the boundaries between the hostile tribes. In this treaty it was agreed that the federated tribes of the Sacs and Foxes should hold that land as theirs, commencing at the mouth of the upper Iowa river, crossing to the Red Cedar, thence in a direct line to the second, or upper fork of the Des Moines, (which would be in the vicinity of Humboldt,) then on to the Calumet, (or Sioux,) and following its course to the point where it entered the Missouri. It was stipulated, however, that as the Yankton band of Sioux were not represented, and as they laid claim to this western territory, the treaty was not to go into effect in regard to this region until the consent of the Yankton Sioux had been obtained. In 1830 a great council was called at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, it having been found that these imaginary lines were wholly imaginary and were not in any wise respected by the warlike tribes and that some further agreement was necessary. A strip of ground forty miles wide, to be known as neutral ground, was therefore established to separate, if possible, the Sacs and Foxes from the Sioux. At this same council the Sacs and Foxes, Iowas, Missouris, Omahas, and bands of Sioux joined in ceding to the United States all their right and title to what is now western Iowa. The treaty read as follows, describing the boundary as that land west of "the highlands between the waters falling into the Missouri and those falling into the Des Moines river, and of the dividing ridge between

the forks of Grand river to the source of Boyer river, and thence in a direct line to the upper forks of the Des Moines." It will thus be seen that within these very vaguely outlined boundaries lies the first territory that can rightfully be said to have belonged, in reality, as well as in name, to the United States of America. Eastern Iowa may boast an older settlement and a longer civilization; but western Iowa and Crawford county belonged to the United States, by right of double purchase, from the French and from the Indians, several years before the government had any claim upon the Indian lands of the eastern part of this state. By a treaty made September 26, 1833, the Pottawattamies, with some of the Ottawas and Chippewas, were granted five million acres of land in the west, upon which they agreed to remove, for the land east of the Mississippi. The boundaries of this grant were as follows: "Beginning at the mouth of the Boyer's river on the east side of the Missouri river, thence down the said river to the mouth of Nodaway river, thence due east to the west line of the state of Missouri, thence long the said state line to the point where it is intersected by the western boundary line of the Sacs and Foxes—thence north along the said line of the Sacs and Foxes, so far as that when a straight line shall be run therefrom to the mouth of Boyer's river (the place of beginning) it shall include five millions of acres." It is hard to follow now the exact outlines of this grant, but it included much of the southern portion of this county. In accordance with the treaty these Indians in due time removed to their new hunting grounds. An agency, or trading post, was established at a place, now in Mills county, known as Traders Point. In 1846 the sub-agency at Council Bluffs reported the number of Indians belonging to the agency to be 2243. This census included Pottawattamies, Ottawas and Chippewas. At Trader's Point Colonel Peter A. Sarpy, a trader from St. Louis, of French descent, supplied the Indians with powder, lead, tobacco, blankets, and such other articles as they needed. Colonel Sarpy was a man of considerable note in his time and during the latter part of his life was somewhat prominent in the early settlement and history of Nebraska, which state has honored his memory in the name of one of her counties.

One of the villages of the Pottawattamies while they resided in southwestern Iowa, was situated on the Nishnabotna river near where the town of Lewis, in Cass county, is situated. It was called by the Indians *Mi-au-mise* (the young Miami) after one of their chiefs. At this place they had a burial ground where now repose the remains of many who departed to the final hunting-ground, which they fondly hoped would never be invaded or disturbed by the pale-faced intruder.

Trader's Point, over on the Missouri, was a general rendezvous of the Indians, where they resorted for the purpose of disposing of peltries and such other commodities as they could barter for supplies at the store of Colonel Sarpy. It is related that Colonel Sarpy had in his employ at Trader's Point, as clerk in his store, a young man from St. Louis, who became desperately smitten with the charms of one of the Pottawattamie belles who resided at the village on the Nishnabotna. Mounted upon her gaily caparisoned pony she had frequently visited Trader's Point with her people, where her equestrian accomplishments and other personal graces had attracted the attention of the young

clerk. So infatuated did he become that when this daughter of the forest left soon after with her people for another home beyond the Missouri, he adorned his hat with a feather and departed with them. We regret to mar the romance of this pretty incident, but the query arises as to how many half-breed vagabonds the government of the United States may have since been feeding in consequence of this young man's infatuation.

While these Indians resided in southwestern Iowa they cultivated some small patches of ground, but as game was then abundant in that region they subsisted chiefly by the chase. On the 5th of June, 1846, another treaty was concluded with them at Trader's Point by which they disposed of their lands in Iowa and agreed to remove further west. During that and the succeeding year most of them took their departure for their new home. For several years afterward parties of them were in the habit of making periodical visits to their old Iowa haunts for the purpose of hunting or communing with the Great Spirit at the graves of the friends and kindred they had left behind them. Pottawatamie county, which embraces a portion of what was their Iowa hunting ground, will perpetuate their name and memory.

For the above facts concerning this treaty and the subsequent Indian settlement we are indebted to "The Red Men of Iowa," an interesting book published in 1882, from which we have quoted.

The Black Hawk purchase was, however, the signal for the first real settlement of Iowa by American pioneers and farmers. "On the 1st day of June, 1833," says Dr. Salter, "the United States troops, who up to that time had guarded the Black Hawk purchase against the incursions of the white people, and had removed intruders and burned their cabins, were withdrawn and the pioneers of the frontier entered in to make claims and settlements. A transformation of the wilderness commenced. There were some instances of strife and contention among the adventurers for town sites, mill sites, belts of timber and the best lands, but good feeling generally prevailed and rules and regulations as to claims were agreed upon in the interest of fair dealing and mutual protection. A petition was sent to congress for the extension of the laws of the United States over them and a bill was introduced to organize a territorial government between Lake Michigan and the Missouri river under the name of Wisconsin." "This territory," said Senator John Tipton, of Indiana, "must have ten thousand inhabitants and will soon have two large states. Nearly three thousand people have located themselves on the west bank of the Mississippi north of the state of Missouri. Their petition to extend the laws over them lies on your table. We owe it to our country and to our legislation to keep pace with our people."

Meanwhile, in the absence of established government, people took law and justice in their own hands and dealt summarily with crime. An instance occurred at Dubuque in the trial and execution of Patrick O'Connor for the murder of George O'Keaf. Appeals were made in vain to the governor of Missouri and to the judge of the western district of Michigan territory. They disclaimed jurisdiction. A citizens' court conducted the trial with deliberation and solemnity. A jury was impaneled, all judicial forms were observed. The murder was committed on the 19th of May, 1834, and the execution took place



OLD DOBSON HOME, DELOIT



FIRST FRAME BUILDING IN DELOIT



on the 20th of the following month. One is almost tempted to ask if our courts can do better to this day.

It was in response to this petition of the new settlers in the Black Hawk purchase that congress finally took action and Iowa was attached to the territory of Michigan for temporary government, and its people subjected to the same laws as the other citizens of Michigan territory. It was this transfer of government which vitalized the prohibition against slavery and made Iowa in reality free territory. Up to this time the prohibition had been non-effective and many slaves were owned in the region north of the Missouri state line. The change was very welcome to the settlers. It meant the establishment of law where lawlessness had reigned. It meant that the wronged individual might have recourse to the courts. It meant the recognition of the growth and progress of a new country. So glad were the people that the 4th of July, 1834, was made a double holiday and it is claimed that Nicholas Carroll, living at Dubuque, first unfurled the Star Spangled Banner in Iowa and that the making of the first flag was superintended by a black woman, who was a slave.

Events now followed rapidly. The country filled up with amazing rapidity. The Black Hawk purchase served only to whet the appetite of the hardy settlers for this rich Iowa land. An extra session of the legislative council of Michigan territory was held and Governor Stephen T. Mason urged in his message that counties should be organized west of the Mississippi and that circuit and county courts be established for the use and convenience of the newly acquired inhabitants of Michigan. The council constituted two counties, Dubuque and Des Moines and made them each a township, one Julien, the other Flint Hill. County courts were established and the laws then in force in Iowa county were extended to them. Iowa county was within the limits of the territory of Michigan and comprised a large area in northern Illinois and southwestern Wisconsin. The fact that the laws of this county were extended to the new counties west of the Mississippi is more important than appears on its face, for this new jurisdiction became known as the Iowa circuit, or the Iowa district, and it was from this that the territory, and the state organized later, took name.

But again the orphan Iowa was made the plaything of Fate. Again it was cast off by its foster parents, for soon after it became a part of Michigan territory. A portion of the territory was set off as the state of Michigan. For a few months there existed Michigan state and Michigan territory, but, the governor of the latter proving unworthy, a council asked President Jackson to revoke his commission. This he refused to do and thereupon the following plaintive memorial was adopted and sent to congress:

"Thrown off by Michigan in the formation of her new state, without an acting governor to enforce the laws, without a competent civil jurisdiction to give security to our lives and property, we ask the intervention of the national aid to give us a new, efficient, political existence. It has been decided by the federal court that the population west of the Mississippi are not under its jurisdiction, and a monstrous anomaly is presented that citizens of the United States, living in its territory, should be unprotected by its courts of civil and criminal jurisprudence."

Finally, after much delay, congress created the territorial government of Wisconsin, April 30, 1836. The territory covered the country between Lake Michigan and the Missouri and White Earth rivers north of the states of Illinois and Missouri. The capital of the territory was located at Belmont, on the east bank of the Mississippi. Albert Lea, writing of the territory west of the Mississippi, says: "During the year 1835 the chief part of the population arrived, and there is every indication of a vast accession during 1836. There are now emigrants from every state in the Union, as well as many foreigners. During a ride of one hundred and fifty miles through the district in January, 1836, I was surprised at the number of improvements then being made for occupation as soon as the warm season should set in. With few exceptions there is not a more orderly, industrious, painstaking population west of the Alleghanies. For intelligence they are not surpassed as a body by an equal number of citizens of any country in the world. About the mining region is a mixed mass of English, French, German, Irish, Scotch, and citizens of every part of the United States."

"This district, being north of the state of Missouri, is forever free from the institution of slavery, according to the compact made on the admission of that state into the Union. So far as political wealth and strength is concerned, this is a great advantage; for free states grow more rapidly than slave states. Compare Ohio and Kentucky; and what would not Missouri now have been had she never admitted slavery within her borders?"

"It may appear to some unacquainted with the character of our western people, and not apprised of the rapid growth of this country, that some of my descriptions and predictions are fanciful; but if there be error, it is that the truth is not fully expressed rather than transcended."

Henry Dodge was the first governor of the new Wisconsin territory and he was an Iowa man, identified with the interests of the people on the west bank of the Mississippi. He made many successful treaties with the Indians and was one of the real leaders in the foundation of this commonwealth. A census of the white people of the territory of Wisconsin was taken in 1835. The population of Des Moines county was 6,257; of Dubuque county, 4,274; and of the four counties east of the Mississippi river, 11,687. Des Moines had much the largest population and was entitled to the largest number of delegates in the territorial assembly. George W. Jones, who lived to a ripe old age and whom many of our people will remember, was the first territorial delegate to congress. This first legislative assembly fixed upon Madison as the capital, with a proviso that a second session, and also a special session were to be held in Des Moines county, at Burlington. At this session Des Moines was divided into the counties of Lee, Van Buren, Des Moines, Henry, Louisa, Muscatine and Cook, the last named of which was afterward changed to Scott. Governor Dodge succeeded in gaining new grants from the Indians, and this land was taken by the inrush of settlers almost before the Indians had moved out. These successive cessions vastly stimulated the increase of population, and that part of Wisconsin lying west of the Mississippi grew by leaps and bounds. The first legislative assembly ever held on what is now Iowa soil, was in Burlington in the year 1837. It was at this session that the county of Dubuque was divided

and the counties of Clayton, Fayette, Dubuque, Delaware, Buchanan, Jackson, Jones, Linn, Benton, Clinton, Scott, Cedar, Johnson and Keokuk were established. But the people of what was then called western Wisconsin were not satisfied. They had an inherent longing for a government of themselves, for themselves, and by themselves. The very first day that the legislative session convened there also met a convention called to demand the organization of a separate territory. A memorial to congress to this effect was adopted both by the convention and by the legislature. There was some question as to the name, Washington, Jefferson, and Iowa being the ones most strongly advocated. The report states that in the convention the matter was discussed "and after considerable debating Iowa was decided upon."

Again the question of slavery seemed about to stand between Iowa and its destiny. So strong a champion as John C. Calhoun opposed the new territory, fearing that it would disturb the balance of power. Through the diplomacy and tact of the congressional representative, George W. Jones, the bill was finally passed by both houses, and the act establishing the territory of Iowa was approved by President Van Buren, taking effect July 4, 1838. A census taken in May of that year gave the new territory a population of 21,859.

CHAPTER IV.

IOWA TERRITORY.

“And the night of death was past.”

And now for the first time Iowa men, on Iowa soil, were to enact laws for the government of Iowa people. The legislators were for the most part sturdy young farmers, much more conversant with the ax and the plow than with law making and with statecraft. They had the laws and precedents of other states by which to go, but the wonder to us now is that they built so wisely and enacted, for the most part, laws which showed advanced ideas of statesmanship and a wide grasp of the details of government.

Robert Lucas was the first territorial governor. He was appointed by President Van Buren for a term of three years. A Virginian by birth, he had, however, been reared in Ohio among free institutions, had been a member of the Ohio legislature and governor of that state. He brought with him a young man as private secretary, T. S. Parvin, who was later known and dearly loved as the secretary of the Masonic order for Iowa. Governor Lucas was a man of dignity and high moral character. He was austere almost to the point of narrowness and though he antagonized many people by emphasizing his official prerogatives, he nevertheless advocated many measures which have been of benefit to the state as a whole. He advocated the extension of the public school system and extensive land grants for its support. He first urged upon the people the necessity for statehood, and it was largely through his firmness that the line between Missouri and Iowa was fixed where it is today, and in accordance with the claims of our people. The first legislature met in Burlington. Among its acts was one providing for a territorial capital near the center of population, and this was fixed by a commission at Iowa City. Later an appropriation was made for a capital building, and what is now known as the Old Central Building, of the Iowa University, was the first permanent capitol.

We say that the laws enacted were for the most part both just and generous, but there must always be an exception to the rule and this was found in an enactment regarding negroes and mulattoes in which it was provided that no free negro might move into Iowa without giving a bond of five hundred dollars for his good behavior, and that, failing to do so, his services might be sold for

a certain period to the highest bidder. It was also provided that an escaped slave should not be harbored, but should be returned to his owner, thus enacting into Iowa law what later aroused the entire nation as the fugitive slave law. We think this legislation typical of the attitude of the people at that time, showing that they were inclined to be tolerant toward the slave evil, and that the national conscience had not yet been aroused, as it later was, by the recital of the wrongs of Uncle Tom, by the dervish-like devotion of John Brown and by the actual infamy of slavery itself. It is a relief to know, however, that when the question came to a test and it was actually sought to kidnap a free negro at Dubuque and take him forcibly into slavery, a private citizen, Alexander Butterworth, whose name should not be forgotten, interfered by writ of habeas corpus, and that the courts of the state affirmed his position, a part of their verdict being that, "Slave property cannot exist without the existence of slavery; the prohibition of the latter annihilates the former. The man who after that act permitted his slave to become a resident here cannot exercise ownership over him in this territory. For non-payment of the price of his freedom no man in his territory can be reduced to slavery." This was just the reverse of the famous Dred Scott decision, made eighteen years later.

In the meantime Iowa was more concerned with the immediate needs of self government than with great moral questions. The development of the territory proceeded rapidly and statehood seemed the desirable end, as advocated by Governor Lucas. The election of President Harrison, the first national whig victory, was followed in Iowa by rapid changes in the governing forces. Governor Lucas was succeeded by John Chambers, a native of New Jersey and a personal friend of the president. Under the influence of Governor Lucas the proposition for statehood was voted upon in 1840, but the people seemed loath to accept the responsibilities and expense of state government, and it was overwhelmingly defeated. Governor Chambers renewed the recommendation of Governor Lucas concerning statehood, and in 1842 the proposition was again defeated. The administration of Governor Chambers was largely noteworthy for his successful treaties with the Indians. He secured from the Sacs and Foxes a cession of a large portion of their Iowa lands, and later induced them to cede their Iowa possessions and move to a reservation in Kansas. This threw open a large portion of central Iowa to settlement and the scenes of the occupation of the Black Hawk purchase were reenacted with all their details of bloodshed, claim jumping and avariciousness, although the ultimate results were good and the country came largely into the possession of actual settlers. In 1844 there was renewed agitation for statehood and this time, by a vote of nearly two to one, the people voted for a convention to form a state constitution.

To well understand the situation one must know that at this time anti-slavery agitation was rife throughout all the northern and eastern states, and that at the same time, the people of the south were jealously guarding against any encroachment upon what they considered a sacred institution. Florida was knocking at the door for admission into the Union as a slave state. Texas, which had freed itself from Mexico, had submitted the proposition for annexation and on account of its large area it was proposed that it should be

divided into four separate states. The people of the north were alarmed at the preponderance which the admission of five states, with ten members of the United States senate, would give to the slave-holding states. They wished for the admission of Iowa, but they wished for its admission with restricted boundaries so that other states might be carved from free territory in order to conserve the balance of power.

The people of Iowa territory were ambitious that their new state should include as much as possible. They wished for their boundaries, on the east the Mississippi, on the south, the state line of Missouri, on the west, the Missouri and Sioux rivers, and on the north, they wished to extend the state so as to include the great water power in the upper Mississippi at the Falls of St. Anthony. The constitution adopted provided these limits, but before it could be enacted by the people the northern members of congress succeeded in having the constitution approved but with the northern boundary materially reduced and the western boundary fixed at seventeen degrees, thirty minutes west of the Washington meridian, which would have brought the western line of the new state a little west of Des Moines. The people of Iowa were incensed at this provision and the constitution was voted down. The matter was presented a second time, with the doubtful proviso that this should not be considered as an acceptance of the congressional boundary. The people were, however, confused and considerably wrought up over the boundary question, and the constitution was a second time defeated. The people felt that the Missouri river was the natural boundary of the state and they would agree to nothing less. To show how greatly interested the nation was, not so much in the welfare of Iowa, per se, but in the establishment of free states and the maintenance of the balance of power between the two great sections of the country, we venture to quote a portion of the prophetic speech made in congress by Samuel F. Vinton. Mr. Vinton said:

"Suppose, (if such a supposition be possible) an attempt were to be made to set up a southern republic, blocking up the road to New Orleans, can there be any doubt what the west would do? The law of its condition, of its geographical position, would force the west to rally to the rescue of the Union. And, what must be a cheering and joyous reflection to every lover of his country, who glories in the greatness of its destiny and sends up his prayers for its immortality, this bond of union will accumulate new force and gain new strength with the increasing millions in the west. There never was a nation which had such a conservative power as must grow up in the heart of this Union. I am one of those who have an abiding faith that this great central power will be true to its trust. To preserve this union, to make its existence immortal, is the high destiny assigned by Providence to this central power. If I could I would fill the public mind there with this sacred sentiment, with a firm resolve, to prove faithful to this mission to which it is called. I would transmit it from father to son to the latest posterity. I would make them feel, like the vestal virgins that kept the sacred fires, that the high command is upon them to keep the Union, to watch over it, to maintain and defend it forever." How nobly Iowa responded! How well it kept the faith. How splendidly it poured forth its blood and treasure to defend the Union, the annals of the war can tell.

In 1845 a compromise was effected between the representatives of the state and congress, the present boundaries of Iowa were approved, and upon the third submission of the constitution it was adopted in August, 1846, by the narrow margin of 456 votes out of a total of more than 18,500. It is interesting thus to note how narrowly Crawford county escaped being a portion of another state. Had the wishes of the northern leaders prevailed this might well have been a part of Wyoming, or Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, but now we can say with the midshipmite in Pinafore,

"I might have been a Prussian,
A Turk, a Greek, a Russian,
But in spite of all temptations,
To belong to other nations,
I remain an—Iowan."

The constitutional convention following the favorable election was held in May, 1846. Congress repealed its former action and, in lieu of the boundary it had prescribed, fixed the Missouri and Big Sioux rivers as the western boundary, and the parallel of forty-three degrees and thirty minutes as the northern boundary. The submission of the constitution was finally voted upon August 3, 1846. At this time the population of the territory was 102,388, and thus Iowa entered into another period of its development, that of statehood.

CHAPTER V.

THE BIRTH OF CRAWFORD COUNTY.

“And the sleep that wrapped us fast
Was riven away in a newer day.”

Iowa was the twenty-ninth state admitted into the Union and the sixteenth after the formation of the government by the thirteen original colonies. It was the fourth state carved out of the Louisiana purchase and comprised approximately one-eighteenth of its territory. Branded as a barren waste, abandoned for many years to Indian lawlessness, it now emerged to become one of the great states of the Union, a state with the least amount of waste land and presenting as fair a picture of enlightenment and prosperity as can be found the world around. Under the new state constitution the first election was held October 26, 1846. The last territorial governor, James Clark, was succeeded by Ansel Briggs, a Vermont Yankee, a stage driver, a democrat, and a bitter hater of banks and banking. It is said that he was elected upon a platform embracing opposition to banking institutions of any kind; opposition to exclusive privileges to corporations, and in favor of few laws, light taxes, no debt, and tariff for revenue only. The new government was established with great eclat. There were parades and much pomp, befitting the establishment of a new commonwealth. It is not the purpose, however, to make of this a history of Iowa. Every one should be familiar with the history of his state and learn to have pride in it, but its place is not here and we have dwelt upon the early organization and the various changes of ownership from the first discovery of this region simply in order to fix the place that the soil of Crawford has in history.

Our next attention must be given, not to the growth of the state and the various laws, some wise, some foolish, by which it has been governed, but to those matters which relate directly to Crawford county. As we have already related, the first counties established west of the Mississippi, under Wisconsin territory, were Dubuque and Des Moines. These were afterward subdivided and resubdivided. The boundaries of Dubuque county to the north and west were ill defined and may be said to have included all the territory to the Missouri river, although no attempt was made at government beyond the line of the Black Hawk purchase. In 1837 Dubuque county was divided into fourteen

counties. Of these, Keokuk (now Iowa), Benton, Buchanan and Fayette were the westernmost. The first three extended west to the Missouri river, while Fayette county extended north and west, including all of northern Iowa, nearly all of Minnesota, and at least one-half of North and South Dakota. Crawford county was, therefore, in 1837 a part of Benton county. There was at this time, however, no effort made to extend any actual county government beyond the eastern portion of the state. In 1843 the county of Tama was added to the west of Benton county. Its boundaries seem to have been fixed about as at present and it is not apparent that western Iowa, including this county, was organized in any way, although if under any jurisdiction we were under that of Tama county. On January 13, 1846, the increasing population made more counties desirable and Marshall, Story and Boone were named and organized and added to this tier of counties. Counties along the south boundary were added more rapidly and the county of Pottawattamie was formed in 1848, its boundaries being in conformity with the cession made to the Pottawattamie Indians. Pottawattamie county, therefore, included nearly all of the present county of that name and all of Fremont, Page, Taylor, Mills, Montgomery, Adams and Cass, most of Shelby and Audubon, and parts of Ringgold, Union, Adair, Guthrie, Carroll, Crawford and Harrison.

The most comprehensive law of county organization was passed January 15, 1851. By this act fifty new counties, including our own, were created. The boundaries of some of these counties have been modified and many of the names have been changed, but for the most part the counties stand today as they were created by the legislature sixty years ago. Crawford county comprised but sixteen townships in lieu of the twenty now within its borders, and among the changes of names we may note: Waukaw (Woodbury), Fox (Calhoun), Yell (Webster), Risley (Hamilton), Buncombe (Lyon), Bancroft (now a part of Kossuth), and among the older counties, Kishkekosh (Monroe), and Slaughter and Cook, afterward wiped out entirely by subdivision into other counties.

In naming the counties the members of the legislature seem to have gone by no fixed rule. Many Indian names were retained, as are evidenced by Sioux, Osceola, Monona, Winnebago, Cherokee, Sac, Pottawattamie, Appanoose, Mahaska, Keokuk, Black Hawk and others. Prominent men and events in the Mexican war were commemorated in such names as Buena Vista, Palo Alto, Cerro Gordo and Taylor. For the most part the counties were named after statesmen who had played important parts in the early history of the country. Among the names of the presidents we have Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Polk, Madison and Jackson. Mr. William H. Fleming, who is in himself a veritable encyclopædia and museum of Iowa history, is authority for the belief that an effort was made to compliment all the older states by naming, as far as possible, two counties after their leading statesmen. Thus it was that Crawford county was named in honor of William Harris Crawford.

It is perhaps well at this place to give some brief information as to the man whose name this county will undoubtedly bear so long as Iowa, and the United States, are known among the people of the earth. William Harris Crawford was born in Virginia in 1772. In his life work, however, he was

Land and Taxpaying Office of
Morris McHenry & Co.
DENISON, CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA.



Table of Distances.
Denison to Fort Dodge 80 Miles
Des Moines 112
Council Bluffs 75
Sioux City 75
Bonnesboro 85

Explanations.
Roads
Timber

RR Lines Surveyed Oct. 1863.

identified with the state of Georgia. He was a member of the United States senate following the year 1807. Of impetuous southern blood, he was involved in two duels, in one of which he killed his opponent and in the other he was himself wounded. In 1812 he was chosen president pro tempore of the senate in the place of Vice President George Clinton, who was disabled by illness. At the outset he was opposed to the war of 1812 with Great Britain, but finally became an ardent supporter, and in 1813 he was appointed minister to France, where it is said that he became an intimate friend of Lafayette. In 1815 he was made secretary of war and the next year was secretary of the treasury, preceding by eighty-six years the illustrious secretary, Leslie M. Shaw, who was to be called from his namesake county to occupy the same high position. The canker of politics worked its wonted course with William Harris Crawford and sent him to the grave, as it has many others, a disappointed, broken-hearted man. He felt that he was in line for the presidency, and he was nominated by a congressional caucus, which was then the accepted method. There were four candidates against him, however, in spite of the caucus nomination, these candidates being Calhoun, Adams, Jackson and Clay. There was no choice in the electoral college, the vote being Jackson ninety-nine, J. Q. Adams eighty-four, Crawford forty-one, Clay thirty-seven. Before the election could be settled by the House of Representatives, as provided by the constitution, Crawford was stricken with paralysis and the hand of the Almighty put an end to this great ambition. His decrepit condition caused him to leave the field of politics and he returned to his own state, where he lived greatly respected among his own people, filling the position of judge with much honor until the time of his death in 1834.

Although having received its name and its boundaries being temporarily fixed, Crawford still in effect was unorganized territory. It was attached to Shelby county for all judicial and fiscal purposes and it was not until the pioneers of our own county awoke to the necessity of local government and in the winter of 1854 agitated the question among themselves that this county became an entity. A petition was circulated among the citizens, addressed to Hon. Mansel Wicks, judge of Shelby county, praying to be set off, separate and apart, and requesting him to order an election for county officers; said election to take place on the first Monday in April, 1855. The petition was granted, the election ordered as requested, and the first voting in Crawford county took place at the house of one Nicholas Friend at what was then known as Friend's Grove, on a branch of Coon creek, about five miles south of Denison. The first officers were E. W. Fowler, county judge; A. R. Hunt, treasurer and recorder; Thomas Dobson and B. F. Wicks tying for district clerk; Cyrus B. Whitmore, prosecuting attorney; Samuel G. Kennedy, surveyor; D. J. Fowler, sheriff; R. D. Butterworth, coroner; John R. Bassett, drainage commissioner. Thomas Dobson was successful in the drawing to decide the tie as to the clerkship. We have no record as to the exact vote, but from our knowledge of conditions it is safe to say that not more than thirty ballots were cast at this first election held in Crawford county.



CHAPTER VI.

THE PIONEERS.

"When over the nursing sod the shadows broke,
And the soul awoke."

The most interesting point in any such history as this must always be, "Who was first?" Who was the man whose foot first rested on the soil? Who first viewed it either as a passing stranger or as one who attempted to make settlement? In passing to this phase of the history, we must first pay our debt of gratitude to the real historian of Crawford county. The real historian is not the man who later edits and compiles and rearranges the information bequeathed by others, but the man who, at the time, had the good sense and judgment to make note of passing events and to preserve them in such form that they might be used by a coming generation. The real historian of this county is Thomas Dobson, and whoever learns to love this county and cherish the memory of its dead, must learn to love also this valiant, clear headed, able man, who, though unskilled in so-called literary work, has done more than all the other men of the county to preserve its traditions and its history. We have before us some of his manuscript, dim with age, yellowed by time, some little more than torn fragments, but all representing time and thought and infinite labor, given not for hope of reward, but because he loved this county as his home. These manuscripts were written from time to time and a portion of them were printed in the Denison Bulletin during the years 1875 and 1876. In literary style, as well as in apparent fidelity to facts, they are excellent and show that this man, though perhaps little schooled, was possessed of extraordinary intellect and a rare sense of historic values. Throughout the course of this work we shall perforce quote liberally from his writings, as in many cases they are the first and most authentic sources of our county's history. There are many others to whom we are indebted. To Mr. A. F. Bond, who for a dozen years kept daily record, not only of personal events, but of those things which concerned and interested the people of the humble, pioneer community. The vivid pictures of the homely life of the early settlers which he gives us, seem to illuminate and bring back to life all the hardships, the discomfitures, the daily interests and the innocent amusements of the pioneer period. The information given us by Mr. B. F. Wicks, Mrs. M. A. Bruner, Elder Butterworth, Mr.

Thomas Rae, and many others have served to bring back many otherwise forgotten and unknown incidents. The files of our weekly papers, which have been preserved for many years, have also aided materially in recalling the daily life of the people. No history can be complete, no more than can be the description of any battlefield, for each man sees it through his own eyes, and to him his own experiences must of necessity be the best remembered and to a large extent the most important. It has been our work to gather the best possible from these many sources of information, to assimilate, and to arrange in as continuous a story as possible, the isolated facts and incidents presented.

The name and personality of the first man who ever saw the wooded streams and rolling hills of Crawford county must forever be shrouded in mystery. We know that the French and English traders penetrated all the vast region west of the Mississippi and north of the Missouri. We know that emissaries of the Hudson Bay Company and the American Fur Company had their agents at work, and that trading posts were established, both east and west of us. We know that some man by the name of Bowyer gave his name to the stream on which we live. Whether he followed the river to its sources or simply saw it at its mouth, as did the members of the Lewis and Clark expedition, we cannot say.

There is a myth concerning the first white resident of the county. It is simply a myth and we have been unable to trace it, beyond the fact that it was printed in an issue of the Denison Bulletin under date of February 24, 1876. Whether it was ever founded in fact, or whether it was but a child of the imagination of that brilliant and erratic genius, A. B. Keith, who at that time presided over the destiny of the Bulletin, we cannot say, but it is interesting, whether as history or as fiction, and we give the tradition as it was presented:

THE FIRST SETTLER—WHO WAS HE?

The oldest inhabitant—who was he, where did he come from, what became of him? These questions are repeatedly asked in every western community, and the legendary tales of border adventure and hair-breadth escapes are ventilated and rehearsed until the identical gentleman is brought to light. In our own community this problem has long since been solved to the satisfaction of all. The man who first dared to brave the aborigines of Crawford county, and who had the hardihood to plant his foot on our virgin soil for better or worse, still lives, we believe, to attest the fact and rejoice in the honor. To all intents and purposes, the "first settler" of history is entitled to the credit conferred upon him, but a retired Indian agent has disclosed a legendary tale which may seem to detract in a measure from the popular idea as to whom the honor of first settlement may justly be accredited. He learned the story from an educated half-breed, a descendant of a chieftain who once held dominion over this section of country. The legend is substantially as follows:

Many years ago there lived in a rural district of Indiana a family by the name of Yale—a peculiar, mysterious, reticent set of individuals, with whom the neighbors found it almost impossible to affiliate. The family consisted of Mr. Yale, widower, Sarah Yale and William and George Yale. Little was



THOMAS RYAN
First Settler of Vail

known of their antecedents; and after a brief sojourn, the family disappeared one dark and stormy night, taking with them the cash earnings of several neighbors. A few weeks subsequent they crossed the Mississippi river, after which their history was wrapped in obscurity, until about three months ago, when the ex-agent became possessed of the facts. It appears that Mr. Yale was haunted by the memory of some terrible crime, for without unnecessary delay he plunged into the wilds of Iowa resolved to mingle with the original inhabitants, and thus shake off the prospect of receiving his just deserts at the hand of civilized law. After weeks of wandering he finally insinuated himself into the confidence of the Indians sufficiently to obtain a small land grant. This land grant was situated on the Boyer river near where Deloit now stands, and was put under rude cultivation by the enterprising adventurer. From this time the Yale family began to lose their identity. The daughter married a young chieftain and all went well for four years.

At last, however, hostilities were resumed by the Indians farther east and the pioneer settlers of Illinois. As the recital of terrible wrongs and atrocious murders traveled westward many a savage warrior dandled his tomahawk and prayed to the great Wacondah for revenge. Unfortunately for the Yales, the daughter died, and thus were the bonds of union with the redmen dissolved. Scarcely a week later a quarrel between William and George Yale and a trio of braves resulted in the death of the two whites. Their bodies were thrown into the Boyer near the mouth of Otter creek.

Mr. Yale comprehended his situation at once, and laid a plan to escape. His suspicious movements betrayed him, however, and notwithstanding the pleadings and commands of his son-in-law, he was brutally tomahawked and buried in an obscure vale in Mason's grove.

Thus ended the first white settler of Crawford county, according to Indian tradition.

Whatever may be the truth of this story of the first settler, which it must be confessed has all the characteristics of a "penny dreadful," the first real settler who left a stamp upon the county and who was identified with its history, came at a much later date. There were three influences, three separate tides of emigration, which affected Crawford county. One was the natural on-coming of the pioneer, the continuance of that rush for land which first settled the Black Hawk strip, spread over central Iowa, and gradually approached the Missouri slope. The second was what may be called a back water from the great Mormon emigration to the far west. The details of this movement are given in an able chapter contributed by Bishop C. J. Hunt, on the history of the Church of Latter Day Saints in Crawford County. Suffice it is here to say that the members of this new sect founded in the east, traveled westward to Illinois, were driven by persecution from their homes and to various places in the state of Missouri. Again driven out by misunderstandings and persecutions and by their stand for freedom as against slavery, the Mormons were compelled to move on. It was at this time that the doctrine of polygamy was first introduced and those members of the old church who declined to accept this doctrine remained scattered through northern Missouri and southwestern Iowa, while the others pursued their way across the plains to Utah.

Gradually these members of the reorganized church spread out into adjacent territory, attracted largely by reports of plenteous game and honey and timber stretches. Thus it was that they came east and north of Council Bluffs (or Kaneville, as it was then called), and established themselves in Harrison and Shelby counties and finally in Crawford. The third element was that which found its birth in the origin of the Providence Western Land Company, a company formed for the exploitation of the west and which settled upon the future town of Denison as a favorable scene of activity, on account of its geographical position at the forks of the Boyer, the probability that the new railroad would go by its doors, and the fact that it was about equi-distant from the larger settlements of Council Bluffs, Sioux City, Fort Dodge and Des Moines, and could reasonably be expected to become an excellent trading point. By means of extensive advertising, this company was enabled to sell tracts of lands to residents of New England, and to some extent to force the settlement of Denison before other points were built up.

There seems to be some confusion as to the date of the first real settlement. The Andreas atlas published in 1875 states that the first settlement was made in May, 1849, by Cornelius Dunham, of Jackson county, Iowa, who brought Franklin Prentice and his wife to the county and left them at the place known as Dunham's Grove, on East Boyer river, about six miles east of the present town of Denison. The atlas goes on to state that Mr. Prentice built the cabin for Dunham, who came with his family in the autumn of the same year, accompanied also by a man named Reuben Blake. The same year Prentice took a claim at the mouth of Otter Creek, on Boyer river, near Mason's Grove. The next settlers, according to the atlas, were Jesse Mason and family and George J. and Noah V. Johnson, all of whom came in June, 1850, and settled at Mason's Grove. In the fall Levi Skinner and Calvin Horr settled at the same place. The next settler was Thomas Dobson, in the spring of 1851, who also settled in the vicinity of Mason's Grove. In the fall of 1853 Edmund Howorth, with his sons, Edmund and Daniel, located at a place called Three Bee Tree Grove, in the southwest part of the county, not far from Dunlap. In 1854 the settlement at Mason's Grove received the following additional members: Benjamin Dobson, A. R. Hunt, D. J. Fowler, Clark Winans, B. F. Wicks and E. W. Fowler. During the same year Benjamin Dobson erected the first saw mill at this place, and the following located in other parts of the county, to wit: John Gilbreath, John R. Bassett and Moses and Daniel Riddle, at Coon Grove; Mathias Didra at Buck Grove, Charles Kennedy and Robert D. Butterworth at Three Bee Tree Grove, and William H. Jordan at Lost Grove, near the present town of Crawford (Dow City). John A. Dunham and Rufus Richardson also came in 1854. The above were all the settlers in the county up to 1855, during the spring of which year came the following: Reuben and John Vore, S. E. Dow, S. J. Comfort, Cyrus B. Whitmore, James Purdy, Isaac B. Goodrich, S. B. Greek, S. S. Sisley, Edward Van Vleet, James Slater, and H. C. Laub. The last named settled at Mason's Grove and the others at various places in the county. In 1856 there were but few additions to the settlers, the following, with their families, it is believed, comprising all: George C. King, William J. Todd, John B. Huckstep, Edwin Cadwell, Tracy Chapman, Morris

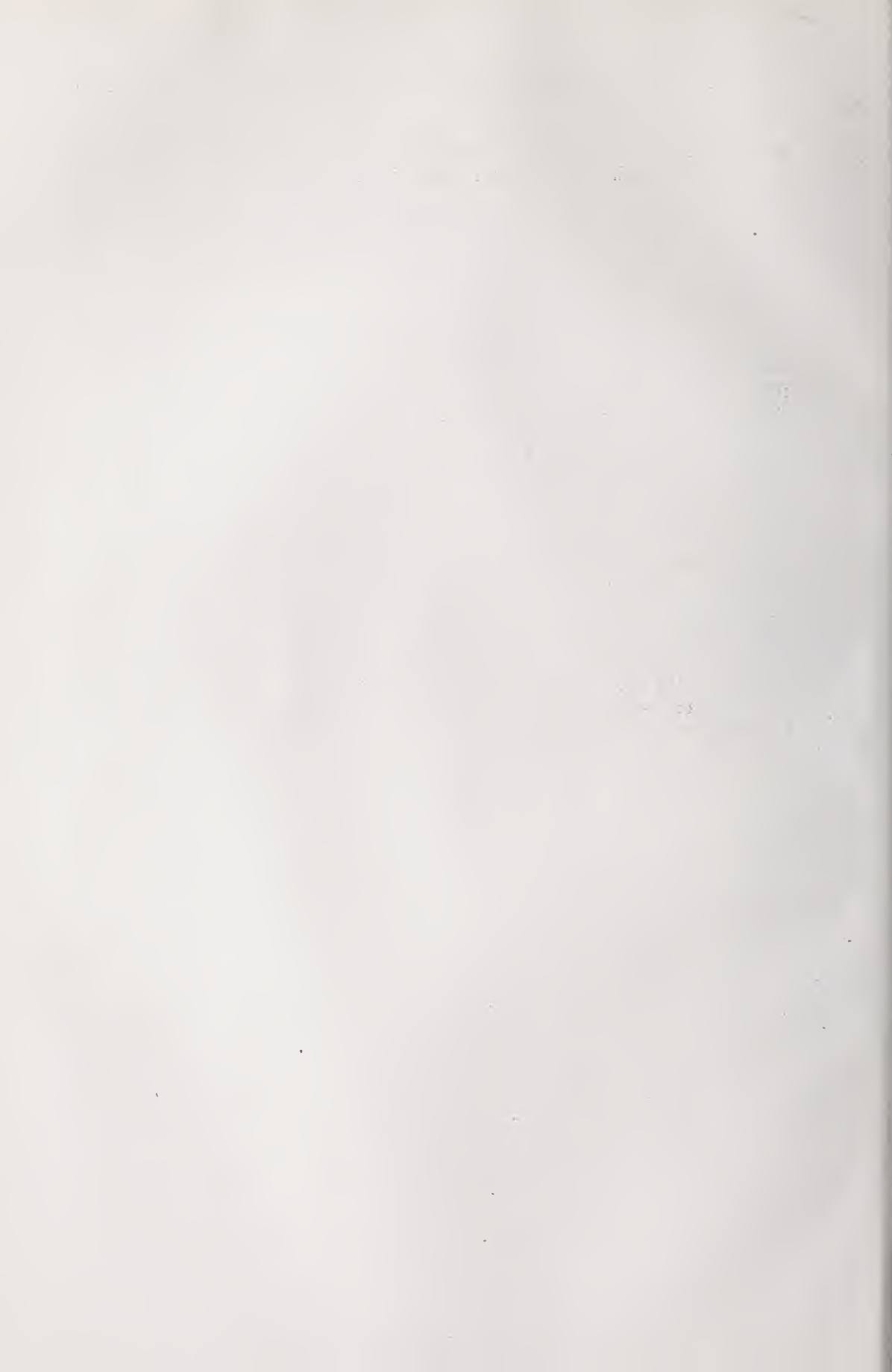


J. FRED MEYERS



McHenry, Esau McKim, and Joseph Brogden, all of whom located at Mason's Grove; and R. B. Alexander, S. Bell, B. B. Bishop, and William Wilkie, who settled in the south and southwest parts of the county. Hon. J. W. Denison came to the county in the fall of 1855, and during that year and the next, selected a quantity of land for the Providence Western Land Company, and in September, 1856, commenced the settlement of the town of Denison. He brought with him Francis Reynolds and John B. Swain, who erected a steam saw and grist mill in the new town.

"The first births in the county," according to the atlas, "were David and George Jesse Mason, twin sons of Jesse and Eliza Ann Mason, born in 1852. The first matrimonial transaction took place at Mason's Grove, October 12, 1853, at which time and place Rev. Thomas Dobson tied three silken knots, binding six willing hearts, as follows: George J. Johnson and Elizabeth Ann Mason; Noah V. Johnson and Jane Mason, and Calvin Horr and Elizabeth Mowery. The first death was that of John A. Dunham, in the winter of 1854-5. The first entry of government land was made August 21, 1854, by John Gilbreath. The first schoolhouse erected was at Mason's Grove, in the fall of 1856, in which Morris McHenry taught the first school, a term of three and one-half months, commencing November 4, 1856. The first sermon was preached Sunday, October 19, 1856, by Rev. William Black, of the M. E. church, and the same day, after the sermon, the first religious society was organized, with seven members. The first Sunday school was organized at Mason's Grove, January 7, 1857, George C. King, superintendent. It was organized under the auspices of the M. E. church and had twenty pupils. The first lawyer was S. J. Comfort, who was also the first acting prosecuting attorney. Dr. David McWilliams was the first physician."



CHAPTER VII.

REMINISCENCES OF THOMAS DOBSON.

"And the ox-wain creaks o'er the buried caves
Where the mummied mammoths are."

From the writings of Mr. Thomas Dobson, some published and some until now unpublished, we have made a number of selections bearing directly upon the first settlement of the county and covering the first decade of its growth. We think it is best to let Mr. Dobson tell the story in his own words, and with as little editing as possible. Mr. Dobson says:

"The writer settled in what is now Pottawattamie county about six miles northeast of the present city of Council Bluffs, about the last of June, 1846, and in September of the same year, in company with several others, set out in quest of game and wild honey. Our first camp was at what is now known as Union Grove in the southeast corner of Harrison county on a branch of Pigeon creek. Crossing the creek on a bridge made by ourselves, we next camped at Six-Mile Grove and thence went to Galland's Grove, where we found that Mr. Abel Galland had preceded us and was building a log cabin and cutting hay preparatory to wintering in that far off country, and this was the only mark of frontier settlement that we found, and undoubtedly was the first visible sign of the advance of civilized life in what is now Shelby county.

"Remaining with Father Galland at his cabin over night we made our next camp at North Grove, camping down in the ravine just below where Mr. Dear-duff now lives. At this time the country here was known as the Pottawattamie country, but was soon afterward ceded to the United States; and in the fall and winter of 1847-8 the Indians were removed to Kansas. We remained camped in North Grove about ten days, during which time we visited Lost Grove near where Dowville now stands, and also the grove where Cornelius Dunham, Sr., afterwards located, near the town of Dunlap. After securing some game and a considerable amount of honey we returned to our families.

"In December, 1846, I again returned to Galland's Grove to find that Mr. Galland had not moved as he had anticipated doing. I camped for the night in his cabin. Spent only a short time in the vicinity as the weather was so cold that the bees would not fly out; of course, we got no honey. Returning home we went down into the state of Missouri, near Oregon, and worked part of the

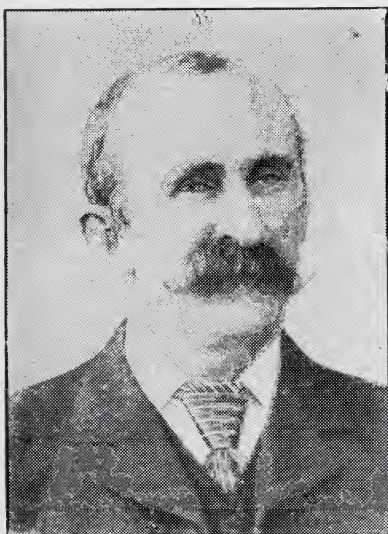
winter at a saw mill drawing logs, obtaining corn, pork and a little flour, but failed to get the corn ground as the mill froze up. We took our corn home and pounded it in a mortar made by splitting a log into halves and troughing-out one end and cutting the other down square and then pinning it together again and using a pestle with an iron wedge stuck into the end thereof. By this means we made our breadstuff until the next harvest, when a Mr. S. E. Wicks got a corn cracker and commenced operations on the Mosquito creek where Mr. Parks has since built a substantial flouring mill."

During the year 1847 nothing of particular note transpired except some incidents peculiar to frontier life. But in August, 1848, Jesse Mason, the great hunter of Western Iowa, set out from his home in company with others, for a town in this upper country, coasting the groves in quest of game and honey until luckily he brought up at the largest grove in what is now within the bounds of Crawford county, and which, by common consent, was named "Mason's Grove," in honor of the mighty hunter.

Mr. Mason, after obtaining a bountiful supply of elk meat, venison and honey, returned home, but only for a short time, however, for his olfactories were so sharpened upon his late trip that he must needs shoulder his trusty rifle, yoke up his oxen, and hitch them to his covered wagon. We might here observe that this was the manner in which all the early pioneers and hunters traversed the then trackless prairies of western Iowa—so much so that it became proverbial that a man could go almost anywhere in this country with a yoke of oxen, a wagon, a spade, an axe and a corn-dodger.

On this occasion Mr. Mason was accompanied by several others to the grove bearing his name, and to this region of country which was fast becoming famous as a hunting ground. This was about the last of September, 1848.

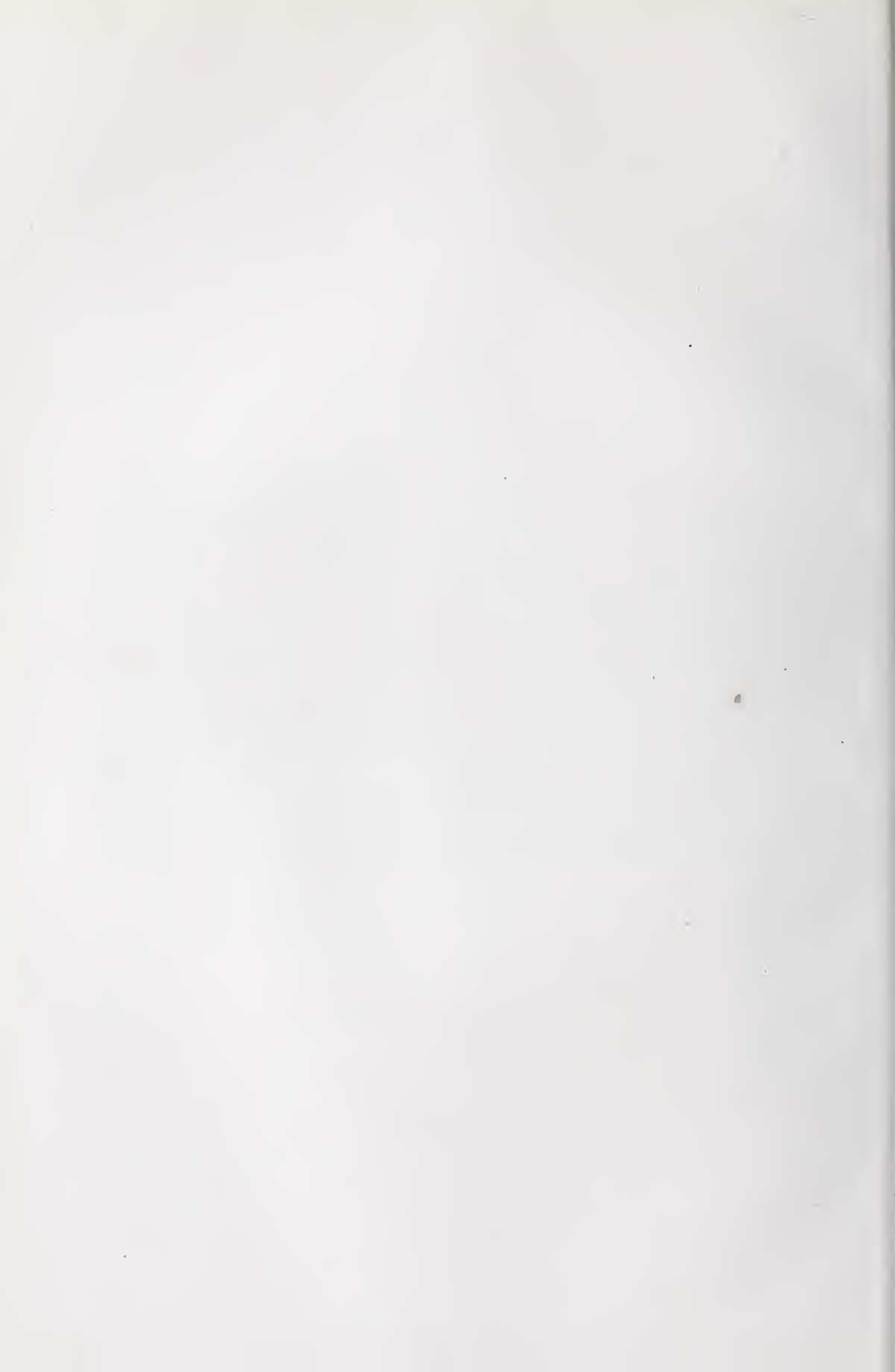
After a visit of some days' duration the party started across the country westward, going as far as Ida Grove and thence down the Maple Valley to its junction with the Little Sioux river, a region of country then entirely unknown except to the red man, or, perhaps, to some half-breeds and Frenchmen that had intermarried with the Indians. During the year 1849 several parties visited this section, but it was so isolated and distant from the then settled parts of the country from which supplies would have to be brought, that those who might have had a desire to settle here were deterred from doing so, and it was not until the spring of 1850 that any permanent settlement was made. Early in the spring of this year, Mr. Cornelius Dunham, Sr., accompanied by his son Cornelius and his daughter Sophrania, brought out Mr. Franklin Prentice and his wife and located on the East Boyer river at what is known as Dunham's Grove near where Tracy Chapman now lives. After remaining a short time and contracting with Mr. Prentice to build him a house, Mr. Dunham returned to his family in Maquoketa, this state; meanwhile Mr. Prentice and Cornelius, Jr., set about getting a crop in the ground, building log cabins and hunting. Mr. Prentice being quite an expert as a hunter, they were well supplied with venison, and coupled with the fact that they were monarchs of all they surveyed, they enjoyed themselves hugely. The nearest white settlement was at Galland's Grove, thirty miles distant and the nearest place at which supplies could be obtained was Council Bluffs, about eighty miles distant.



DR. U. B. EVANS, ARION



DON J. BUTLER, ARION
First white child born in the county



Mr. Dunham returned with the remainder of his family about the middle of October, bringing out a large stock of cattle and hogs. As the range in the grove and along the creeks was excellent, both cattle and hogs did well until late in the season. Mr. Prentice, having assisted in placing Dunham's family in comfortable quarters for the winter, took a claim at Mason's Grove and built a cabin a little south of the present farm residence of Mr. Mason's, and resided there during the winter of '50 and until the spring of '51.

About the middle of November the writer in company with his brother Joseph made his first visit to Mason's Grove, partly to see the place and partly on a hunting expedition, but it seemed so isolated that we could not make up our minds to get so far away from all the conveniences of civilized life, as we dreaded a repetition of the experiences we had already passed through in the settlement of Pottawattamie county. We returned home, entered into partnership with another man, procured a whipsaw and commenced sawing out lumber for wagon boxes for the overland travel to California and Salt Lake, and continued at this business till the last of March, 1852, at about which time Mr. Mason came down on his way to Council Bluffs with a load of venison, hams and deer skins with which he intended to purchase his summer's supply of groceries, etc. He insisted that I had better make up my mind to come up in this part of the country. We finally concluded that as we now had a saw mill of our own (Armstrong's power) and if we could get a corn cracker that we could run on the same principle, we would go, and after a little time succeeded in procuring a steel hand-mill with which we could grind from one-half bushel to three pecks of corn an hour. All being in readiness, we started, this time in company with my father, Benjamin Dobson, and my brother John, arriving at Mason's Grove about the middle of April, 1852, and immediately set about looking up some claims. As there was no surveying done, we could only take our claims as best suited us, and having a small pocket compass, we tried to get them located so they would square up without much inconvenience when the survey should be made. Father made choice of what he esteemed the best place for locating a mill on the Boyer river, which has since become widely known as Dobson's mill. We made ours just below, and made our line within twenty rods of where the mill was afterwards built. Hiring a young man by the name of Calvin Horr we set to work to cast a set of house logs, brother John drawing them together with a yoke of oxen as fast as we got them ready, and when the first day's work was done we had all the logs on the ground. The next day we had a house raising at which all the men and some of the women then residing at Mason's Grove were present, and by evening the last log was up. The next day we spent in getting out clapboards for covering, and in four days we had a house completed save the doors and windows, fireplace and chimney.

As it was now almost the first of May we concluded to put in our garden, which we did by using a weed patch that Mr. Mason had put in good condition the year before by raising a crop of turnips on it. This was situated about forty rods above the mill in the grove on father's claim. This done, we repaired to our family at Union Grove, Harrison county, to which place we had removed in the fall of 1849, and commenced making preparations to again move

to our new home where we arrived with our family on the 20th day of May, 1852, and I introduced my wife to the new log cabin, minus doors; that is, there was a place of ingress and egress but no shutters, and no windows except the cracks between the logs, and no floor except mother earth. But my wife, good soul, contented herself as best she could, scolding a little now and then, but we had no time to listen, for it was now past the middle of May and we must raise some corn and potatoes, which we did by enlarging our garden, and got in about four acres of corn and some potatoes and squashes. We then put up our saw mill and coupled on our Armstrong consisting of self and Mr. Skinner, and soon had lumber-sawed floors and doors and window casings, both for ourselves and neighbors.

Early in the spring of 1856 W. J. Todd moved out his family and located about four miles east of Deloit, W. W. Anderton returned to Illinois, J. B. Huckstep, George C. King, and with him one or two brothers, the younger of whom remained, both purchased land; also O. S. Wright came about the same time.

During the winter several incidents occurred worthy of notice; some very fearful ones before winter had fairly set in or any snow had fallen. Mr. Goodrich had moved to the Purdy farm north of town, had put up his hay for the winter on the west side of the Boyer river, and having placed his stock there it became the duty of a small boy to go there once a day to feed the stock. One day as the boy was making his regular trip, when near the Boyer grove he of a sudden beheld a large catamount but a few steps in front of him in the path evidently awaiting him. The boy suddenly halted, turned and whistled for his dog which was not far away, but as soon as he turned, the ferocious cat sprang upon him, throwing him directly upon his face on the ground, and dragged his enormous claws over the boy's head and shoulders lacerating the flesh fearfully. The shrieks of the little fellow brought the bull terrier to his assistance, who so surprised "Barnum's pet" by trying to swallow him t'other end to that he was glad to release his victim and escape to the woods. It is needless to say that this noble dog was ever afterward held in high esteem by the entire family.

The winters of 1856 and 1857 proved to be more severe, and we had a greater number of storms than has ever occurred since. In the great snow storm which began the second day of December, 1856, and lasted three days, the cows all strayed away to the timber. After the storm was over a road was shoveled out to the Denison cows, in order to bring them home. Mr. Didra, a German living one mile below town, was completely overpowered by the great snowfall. His house was situated on the south hillside, precisely in a position to be covered up, together with feed yard and cattle. His garret being full of snow, no fire could be made below as it would produce a flood in the house. The wife and children must tarry in bed until the snow was removed. But the first and more important work was to aid an ox supposed to be many feet below the surface, struggling for life. "I heard him very plainly," said the German, when he arrived at town and procured a scoop shovel and two men to aid in the search of the lost ox. Down they dug and shoveled directly where five other oxen were standing on top of the trodden snow. After going as

deep as they could they took fork handles and probed the snow without reaching the ground. Discouraged in the search, it was abandoned. The poor man returned to rid his house of snow. Knocking off a few boards on the gable end, after a few hours' labor his chamber was cleared of snow and he was able to build a fire and make his family comparatively comfortable, considering the snow-bound situation.

Another incident of the storm occurred in town. A young man by the name of Jacob Seagrave, the son of a wealthy Rhode Islander, was boarding at the Denison House and on the eve of the beginning of the storm stepped out to visit a Mr. Bisher, who lived but one block away, and in the attempt to return home lost his way. The guests at the Denison House, Mr. Denison himself included, became uneasy about him and sent out a man to look after him. He was reported to have left the house twenty minutes previous. At this hour no man dared to venture out. The Storm King raged fearfully, and the air was completely filled with blinding snow. The house was beaten with sticks of stove wood, and tin pans were ruined in the vain attempt to make a noise above the roaring of the storm, that the lost man might hear it. As a last resort the bed cords were taken from the beds, tied together and a man sent out along the line, a circle was formed holding one end of the cord near the house—but all in vain. All night long was spent in anxious suspense and fearful foreboding as to the fate of the lost man. At the break of day the storm having partially subsided, Jason Whiting, a son of the proprietor of the Denison House, discovered a pair of boots peering above the snow down the divide in a southwest direction. Hastening to the spot he shook the boots, the young man awoke, endeavored to rise, but soon found his feet were of no use. He was carried to the house and cared for in the best manner possible. It was soon evident that amputation was necessary, and Mr. Denison in company with Jason Whiting set out for Omaha for a surgeon—not by rail, nor yet by horse conveyance (for the snow was too deep to attempt to go with a wagon or carriage), but by the "old walker line," and was taken almost at the risk of their own lives. Such tasks are seldom undertaken with as much heroism as those men set out on their mission of mercy in order, if possible, to alleviate the sufferings of a fellow-creature. Near two weeks afterward they returned with Major Grant, a retired surgeon. When they arrived at the foot of the hill near town they entered Mr. Swain's house to warm, when it was discovered that their faces were frozen to a whiteness. They were ordered to lie close upon the floor and their faces were plastered with snow to draw out the frost (the rough reception Mr. Swain gave his guests is seldom experienced by the settlers now-a-days). After getting warmed and refreshed they wearily wended their way up the hill and found their patient still alive and in pretty good spirits, considering the circumstances. The sufferer's feet were taken off about the ankle and for a while it seemed doubtful about his recovery; but he finally got well, returned to his Rhode Island home, and has since been on a visit to the scenes of his sufferings.

Deer abode about town all winter. Mr. Reynolds states that at one time he counted seventy-five of them on the bluffs west of town. Venison was plenty, but owing to the deep snows the deer began to grow quite lean after the first

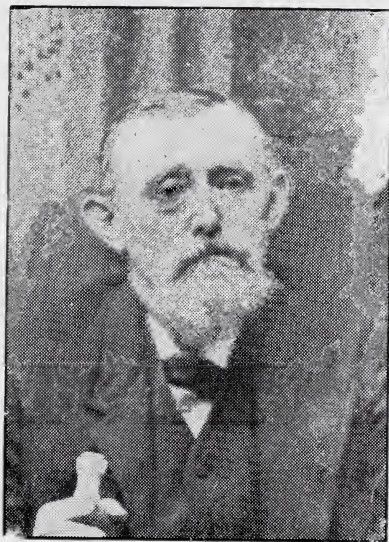
of January; but nearly all the families were plentifully supplied while they were yet in good condition for nice steaks. But toward spring the wolves became very plenty and hunted down immense herds of deer, as the crust on the snow was hard enough to bear up the wolves, but the deer in jumping would break through and were thus rendered an easy prey.

About the first of February Reynolds and Swain set their little steam mill to grinding wheat. At this time parties were selling flour at nine dollars per hundred pounds. After the mill started flour was obtained for five dollars, gold.

Morris McHenry, so long and favorably known by the citizens of Crawford, came to the state of Iowa and landed in Johnson county, but left the state and went to Wisconsin. He returned to Iowa and landed at Council Bluffs April 24, 1856, came to Crawford county May 7th of the same year, hired his board with Grandpa Dobson, worked at odd jobs, explored the county and made himself useful generally; was appointed deputy county surveyor by H. C. Laub, June 10, 1856, and was elected county surveyor at the August election of that year. At this time there had never been a school taught in the county. The citizens of Mason's Grove and vicinity were desirous that Mr. McHenry should teach a school for the children, many of whom were already nearing manhood and womanhood without the advantage of an education. But that so desirable an end might be attained it was necessary that a building be had for this purpose. Accordingly the neighbors turned out, some with axes, some with ox-teams, and cut the logs and dragged them together in a suitable place in the grove and proceeded at once to rear their primitive temple of learning by placing the logs in shape to form a comfortable looking cabin. This done, more skilled workmen were employed as architects and carpenters, consisting of Morris McHenry, foreman, John Dobson, Joseph Dobson and others, assistants. An immense fireplace was cut out at one end of the building and a stick and mud chimney was reared; a crackling fire on a clay hearth formed the basis of comfort, and on the 15th of December, 1856, Morris McHenry was duly installed as teacher of the first school taught in Crawford county. It might be well to remark here that all the work in the building of the school house was voluntary, and after completion the patrons of the school paid their individual subscriptions. We do not now recollect what it amounted to, but it was merely nominal; and perhaps no school since has made such proficiency in their studies as did this one, with slabs for seats and writing desks of slabs made fast to the sides of the house. Mack taught again the next winter with like good results.

Up to the latter part of the year 1856 there had been no public religious services held in the county, and we fear but little religious service in private. To Mr. Morris McHenry we are indebted for the history of the M. E. Church in Crawford county.

At the session of the Upper Iowa Conference in 1856, Carroll, Sac and Crawford counties were set off as mission work, and Rev. William Black appointed preacher. He reached Crawford during the week ending October 18, 1856, and preached his first sermon October 19th, at the house of Rufus Richardson, near the half section corner on the west side of section 8-84-38, in



C. J. HOLLING, ASPINWALL



Mason's Grove, and organized a society of seven members—George C. King, Leader; Emma R. King, Rufus Richardson, Phebe Richardson, O. S. Wight (exhorter), Salatha Wight and Morris McHenry. Soon after J. B. Huckstep and wife also united with the society. The first quarterly meeting of this society met at Mason's Grove May 30, 1857, Rev. Taylor, presiding elder, and Rev. Black, preacher in charge. The other members present were George C. King, O. S. Wight, R. Richardson, J. B. Huckstep, and M. McHenry. The following officers were elected: Recording steward, M. McHenry; financial stewards, Rufus Richardson, J. B. Huckstep. The salaries of the elder and preacher in charge were \$15 and \$50, respectively, of which the elder received \$6.00 and the preacher in charge \$19.75, making total paid \$25.75. At the session of Upper Iowa Conference in the fall of 1857, Crawford county was set off as a separate charge, and preaching commenced at Comfort's on the Boyer, at Denison, at the Mason Grove School House, and at Hucksteps, three miles east of the grove. The first Sunday school in the county was organized at the schoolhouse in Mason's Grove June 7, 1857, by the M. E. Church, George C. King, superintendent; Mrs. Todd, Mrs. King and M. McHenry, teachers. The first M. E. Sunday school in Denison was organized by Rev. William Black, April, 1858, Jacob Whiting, superintendent, M. McHenry, assistant. Teachers, Arthur S. Wright, Harriett Brett, Mrs. W. S. Persons, Mrs. J. W. Ellis and others.

In May, 1856, Dr. Wharton, Esau McKim, and Dr. McWilliams came to the county. Mr. McKim settled in the vicinity of Deloit, Dr. McWilliams bought 160 acres where J. D. Newcome now lives. The Doctor studied medicine at Belfast, Ireland, and intended when he settled here to quit practice, but having performed a nice surgical operation in taking out a piece of glass from a young lady's foot, which brought him before the public, he had to practice in spite of himself until other doctors came, and to some extent since. Dr. Wharton remained only a short time and went away.

In the fall of 1856 Robert H. Darling and family arrived* from the state of Vermont and settled at Mason's grove. Early in May, 1857, E. S. Plimpton came to Denison and remained till fall, then in company with A. F. Bond took a farm on Big Creek, taught school in the Mason's Grove schoolhouse in the winter of 1858-59, went back to New York City in 1863, and returned again to Denison June 10, 1870, and engaged in the mercantile business, where he has since become well and favorably known to the citizens of all parts of the county. In the latter part of May, 1857, A. F. Bond and J. D. Seagrave arrived and made a temporary settlement at Mason's Grove. Mr. Bond remained and assisted Mr. Seagrave in putting in a crop, then went to Denison, and he and E. S. Plimpton worked for George Calkins on the brick yard near where the depot now is. After the brick were burned, Mr. Bond commenced working at his trade—that of bricklayer—and built the first brick chimney in the county and did the first plastering on the Denison House. The same fall Messrs. Wallace & Bond built the brick house where Mr. Denison now lives, and late in the season Bond & Plimpton rented the Bowers farm on Big Creek. Here they commenced living, or rather batching, for they were both single men, and continued for near two years, Edward being chief cook and bottle washer. "A

little incident occurred," says Mr. Bond, "which served to amuse and entertain us during many long winter evenings. Mr. Plimpton had gone to Council Bluffs to procure our winter's supplies. Myself and Patrick Slattery, a jolly young Irishman, were engaged in building a shelter for our stock, procuring the poles from a small grove situated in a ravine. While employed at this labor my dogs suddenly came upon some wild animal, and such terrific barking and squalling so frightened our Irishman that he started up the hill on a full run, scarcely looking back till he thought he had placed himself out of danger. In going to the assistance of the dogs I found they had the largest coon I ever saw. He was even too much for the two dogs, and I went into the combat with them and after a long time we gained the victory. By this time Pat had recovered from his fright and joined us. We obtained a large amount of oil, using it for making light during the winter evenings. The carcass we used for meat, and by keeping it properly, it lasted us nearly all winter. With a plentiful supply of squashes and potatoes purchased of Mr. Didra and corn meal from Dobson's mill we fared sumptuously. Time passed pleasantly away and we enjoyed ourselves hugely. But notwithstanding our then enjoyment in single blessedness we have long since come to the conclusion that it was not good for man to be alone."

Mr. Bond has long been justice of the peace in Denison, honored and respected by all his acquaintances, and by his fidelity and faithfulness has so won upon the confidence of the citizens that when the town of Denison was incorporated he was chosen mayor by a large majority.

In the spring of 1857 Benjamin Dobson laid off the town of Deloit, Morris McHenry, surveyor. Here the first celebration of our national anniversary in Crawford county was held July 4, 1857. Arrangements were made by building a bowery on the public square. To Mr. Edwin Cadwell we are indebted for particulars, as he kept a memorandum. He says: "I have in my account book the subscriptions and the disbursements of the financial committee. Eli Baer and myself were appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions. My list shows the following names and amounts paid: Joseph Dobson, \$1; William Dobson, \$1; Eli Baer, \$1; E. Cadwell, \$1; F. W. Payne, \$1; Frank Prentice, \$1; Deforest Darling, \$1; Benjamin Dobson, \$1; George C. King, 50 cents; James B. King, \$1; T. C. Dobson, 20 cents; Jason Wight, \$1; Thomas Dobson, \$1; Morris McHenry, \$1; Marcus Wight, \$1; Albro Darling, 20 cents; amounting to \$13. With this money we were to buy flour, sugar and other things for the dinner. We bought the following articles as we could find them among the settlers, as there was no store nearer than Council Bluffs. The material for a flag (not silk) cost \$1.55; flour, \$4.65; sugar, \$4.00; gallon of molasses, \$1.50; butter and eggs, \$1.00; candies, \$1.00; part of a sheep, \$1.00; amounting in all to \$14.70. Cash received, \$13.90, leaving a balance due the committee of 80 cents, which was responded at the table by the following gentlemen: George C. King, 50 cents; Joseph Skinner, 50 cents; Vincent Cheadle, 50 cents. The material thus collected was taken in charge by several ladies, Mrs. Todd doing most of the cooking, but other ladies in the neighborhood assisted greatly in the preparation of chicken-fixings, pies, cakes, and many other good things—God bless the ladies for the zeal and patriotism displayed. About fifty per-

sons were present and assisted in raising the flag staff, the first one ever raised on the soil of Crawford county. Reader, could you have seen those hardy sons of toil with heads uncovered, cheering the red, white and blue—why, we were all rich then; our money was all put into our flag and dinner, all on a common level; no big “I” and little “u” among us; chock full of patriotism and genuine friendship. Rev. Darling was to have delivered an oration, but he failed to put in an appearance. George C. King was chosen president of the day. The table was soon spread and richly laden with the good things of the land. J. D. Seagrave did the honors by asking the divine blessing. H. C. Laub read the Declaration of Independence. Toasts and speeches were indulged in and all enjoyed themselves hugely. We would now gladly go many miles to participate in just such another one as free from selfish motives and also as free from alcoholic stimulants.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN DOBSON, DELOIT

CHAPTER VIII.

REMINISCENCES OF THOMAS DOBSON—Continued.

“And oh! what beautiful years were these,
When our hearts clung each to each.”

Early in May, 1852, the territory embraced within the limits of Crawford county was surveyed off into townships. Up to this time the settlers in this region of country did not know what county they would be embraced in. Benjamin Dobson with part of his family came up about the first of June and commenced to get out timbers for a saw mill, assisted by Reuben Blake and Frankline Prentice. This summer we were a little world by ourselves, as during the entire season no others came, not even to visit us. About the middle of September three men came up from the vicinity of Council Bluffs on a hunting tour, and stopped for a little time near our house. We endeavored to persuade them to remain with us over night in order to have some converse with them and learn the news, for we had been from May until this date entirely shut off from any communication with the outside world; but they were in haste to reach their hunting grounds and declined our hospitality. We would gladly have kept them, or any others, for we were about eighty miles from Council Bluffs, our nearest postoffice, and our only means of getting to that was with an ox-team, requiring three days to go, camping out by the way, and if we had anything to spend for groceries for ourselves or neighbors it took us a day in the city and then the same number of days to return, making seven in all, it will readily be seen that we could not go down very often. But notwithstanding these drawbacks we enjoyed ourselves to a very great degree. We were all friends, spent our leisure time together visiting at each other's houses, helping each other along with our work. If one neighbor got behind through illness or misfortune, we helped him up without charge. Our dress was plain and simple; quite a number of the men wore buckskin, our wives and daughters wore calico or common muslin colored, or linsey wolsey wove by themselves, but even in this dress neat and clean. But we have not said anything about our bill of fare. This consisted of plenty of good corn bread, plenty of milk and butter, plenty of venison and pork, and all the lines of vegetables, and these last seemed to produce in greater profusion than they have since; perhaps it was because we bestowed more attention upon them.

The first twins born in the county were born at Mason's Grove, September 20, 1852—Jesse and David, sons of Jesse and Eliza Mason, both of whom still live at Deloit, and Jesse is now a married man.

Toward the last of September my father having the basement story of his saw mill framed and ready for raising, Mr. Mason shouldered his rifle and went out and killed two fine deer for the occasion. Quite a number of men came up from Galland's Grove, a distance of thirty miles, to help us, spending three days. Among the names recollected and who are still living in the county are Franklin, John and Sidney Rudd. This accomplished the mill business was laid over until spring.

The winter was spent by most of the settlers in hunting. George Johnson, Noah Johnson and Calvin Horr, all young men, had now become quite expert as hunters and trappers under the tutorship of Mr. Mason who has himself killed as many as ninety-four deer in a single season.

In the spring of 1853 Benjamin Dobson brought the balance of his family to Mason's Grove, and at the same time A. R. Hunt came with his family and settled where Mr. Michael Ainsworth now lives. These were about the only additions by settlement during this year. But we had now a surplus of young men and women, and these soon determined to assist in settling up the waste places, and accordingly the proper papers were issued from the office of William Vanausdall, County Judge of Shelby county, and on the 12th day of October, 1853, Elder Thomas Dobson united in marriage Mr. George J. Johnson and Miss Elizabeth Mason, Mr. Noah V. Johnson and Miss Jane Mason and Mr. Calvin Horr and Miss Elizabeth Mowery. These were at that time all the marriageable young people in the county except Cornelius Dunham and his sister Sophronia (Mr. Blake having already gone back to his Green Mountain home in search of his affinity), and they undoubtedly would have been married had there been any mates for them. As evidence of the earnestness of the parties to obey the command to multiply and replenish the earth Noah V. and his wife are the happy parents of thirteen children and the others have been blessed with quite a numerous progeny.

In the summer of 1853 the several townships embraced within the county were surveyed and "run off" into sections. The Homestead Law, which was then being agitated in Congress, encouraged the settlers to hope for its passage in time for them to secure a quarter section of land by actual settlement; but in this they were doomed to disappointment. As a class we were only possessed of moderate means, and as for cash, we had none—the saving of even the minimum price of \$1.25 per acre was to us quite an object, but of this we will speak more fully hereafter.

Late this fall Uncle Edmund Howorth and his sons Edmund and Daniel located at Three-Bee Tree grove.

Crawford county being attached to Shelby county for revenue and judicial purposes, the county court of Shelby ordered that Crawford county be organized into a civil township, granting to the citizens the privilege of having it to suit themselves. The organizing officer was Andrew Foutz, who, by the way, could neither read nor write, but by the assistance of the citizens the proper notices were posted and on the first Monday in April, A. D., 1854, was held at the house

of Thos. Dobson the first election for township officers. On motion of Benjamin Dobson, the township was named Milford. At this election Benj. Dobson, Franklin Prentice and Calvin Horr were chosen trustees; Thos. Dobson, Justice of the Peace and assessor; A. R. Hunt, Justice of the Peace and township clerk, father of N. L. and C. J. Hunt; F. Prentice and C. Horr, constables. Whole number of votes cast, five. This, you will say, was a small beginning, but it was a beginning, nevertheless, and destined to grow, and out of which has sprung all the other township organizations.

About the 1st of May, John A. Dunham and Ambrose Richardson settled at Dunham's grove. In June, Rufus Richardson and D. J. Fowler, and in September, Clark Winans and B. F. Wicks, settled at Mason's grove; W. H. Jordan and J. R. Rudd at Lost grove; R. D. Butterworth at Oak grove; Judge John R. Bassett, John Gilbreath and Moses and Daniel Riddle at Coon grove. Mathias Didra, the first German settler in the county, located at Buck grove. These are believed to have been all that came during the year.

R. D. Butterworth relates among other incidents that he lived in a pen all winter that was covered with poles and hay, that he hunted deer and his wife hunted turkeys and prairie chickens and used to bring home a good many of them. On one occasion she and Judge Butler were shooting at a mark, which the Judge always missed and she always hit. The Judge wanted to trade for her gun, saying it was of no account. She said, "Look here, Judge, that gun just suits me; you could hit the mark if you wanted to."—He laughed and went home.

The first Monday in August there was another election held in Milford township. At this election we determined to vote, at least, for those we preferred in office in Shelby county. We understood that the law gave us no right to vote for county officers, but it gave these officers a right to tax us for county revenue, and, as a Western phrase has it, we were "getting on our ear" about it, believing with our forefathers that taxation without representation was not right. We thought that the county officials, in courtesy to their foster children, might be induced to count our vote; but they stood on their dignity and said the law was against us. Who were we, that we could resist? The situation being excepted we settled down to await further developments.

E. W. Fowler and family arrived in November, closing up the emigration for this year. This winter was most delightful, very little snow falling—not more than two or three inches at any one time. The consequence was that there were not as many deer killed as usual for want of a good tracking snow.

During the winter of 1854-55 we frequently talked over what we thought in our situation burdensome to us—that of being attached to another county and having to go there to do county business without a voice in the choice of county officers. The conclusion was that we would circulate a petition among our citizens, addressed to the Hon. Mansel Wicks, Judge of Shelby county, praying to be set off separate and apart, and requesting him to order an election for county officers; said election to take place on the first Monday in April, 1855. This election was held at the house of Nicholas Friend at what is known as Friend's Grove, on a branch of Coon Creek. We now felt that we were cut loose and fairly out at sea. The object now being to steer clear of breakers, we

were all inexperienced seamen and almost without chart or compass, and with nothing to keep our reckoning on, you may well think we were almost in a fix, but, nothing daunted, we set about our work, studied law a little through the summer at intervals, till the first Monday in August when the regular election was held and when John R. Bassett was elected County Judge and B. F. Wicks, Treasurer and Recorder, the Judge holding his office at Coon Grove and the Clerk and Treasurer and Recorder at Mason's Grove. We passed from one to the other on foot and almost over the ground where Denison now stands. Somebody may ask why we went on foot. We reply, for the best of reasons. That was our only mode of travel except with ox teams. Horses we had none. The only horse at Mason's Grove was Sam, owned by B. Dobson, then young, and may be considered the pioneer horse of Crawford county, doing service both in riding and driving at different times for almost the entire neighborhood. He carried in after years, the first mail into Crawford county, attended the first delegate convention ever convened for the nomination of District Judge, at Ashton in Monona county, and in fact if his history were written it would fill a volume. He is now known to all the old settlers as Old Sam, and is still owned and cared for by his old master who, notwithstanding his age—almost 27 years—would not part with him at any price. But to return to the condition in which the first county officers were placed. Without casting any reflections on any that have since been candidates for office in the county, we conclude that under the circumstances in which we were placed, but few of them would have consented to have been a candidate, especially as the pay was only fifty dollars a year and no money to pay with. Well, it is all over now; we lived through it, and the remembrance of it brings to mind many social enjoyments. Besides settling up our business we had a good social visit with Judge Bassett and his amiable wife and daughter, now Mrs. Newton Richards.

Among the arrivals this year we note John Vore who settled at North Grove, S. E. Dow where he now lives, since Dowville, S. J. Comfort nearly opposite across the river, I. B. Goodrich settled at S. B. Greek's, afterward removing to where he now lives. John Purdy, S. S. Sisley, James Slater and his son Solomon and Joseph Brogden also came to Mason's Grove. In June Benjamin Dobson started his sawmill, and thence forward lumber for building purposes was to be had in abundance for first supply.



CRAWFORD COUNTY FARM SCENE



"SAM," ONE OF THE FIRST HORSES TO CARRY MAIL IN THE COUNTY

CHAPTER IX.

REMINISCENCES OF THOMAS DOBSON—Concluded.

“Through brawn and bone I drave the stone,
And slew him upon the brink.”

In the spring of 1857 several incidents occurred which are worthy of notice. Several families of emigrants from Maine, Rhode Island, and other States arrived and settled in Denison and vicinity. The citizens of Denison were greatly surprised one balmy morning in early spring by a large buffalo bull coming up into town while most of the inhabitants were at breakfast. Knives and forks were instantly dropped; many had never seen a buffalo; excitement ran high; men, women and children rushed into the streets; some thought to corral him, but he appeared not to know their object, passing right up to the lines while they gave way to his royal majesty. He passed through wire fences without stopping, scarcely realizing their presence. After receiving several shots from shot-guns and small rifles with no effect further than to enrage and exasperate him. a young man, by the name of John Appleman gave him a death shot. As he crossed the divide between town and the Burnt Woods John Purdy, F. Reynolds, Mr. Perkins and a number of others were there, and arrived in time to see him die. He was an immense beast, sixteen years old as per horn marks. Just how much he weighed we do not recollect; he was quite thin in flesh, but suffice it to say that almost every individual in the county had a share. A party endeavored to preserve and stuff the hide but the head was so large they failed, and Mr. Swain, an experienced tanner, cured the hide, and it was divided, giving halter straps to almost every man in the county.

The next thing of note was the great rains and floods. Mr. A. S. Wright who kept a strict calendar assured us that it rained forty-one days out of forty-three, the effect of which was terrible. The Boyers were spread out from bluff to bluff. Early one morning Swain and Reynolds arose to see their mill almost covered with water, their logs washed away, and a man by the name of Benjamin Galland on top of the mill shouting for help. His wagon was washed down stream and was recovered with much exertion. Among the newcomers this spring were Samuel Swain and wife, father and mother of J. B. Swain. They reported meeting on the wide prairie between Carrollton and Dunham's Grove a wild looking man by the name of Harper who had just made a trip from Dallas

county to Crawford county with a load of flour. He had sold flour and team and was returning on foot. This man related to Father Swain a dreadful story of a narrow escape from a band of Indians. Said he was taken several miles north of the road, robbed of all his money, and then given a chance to escape by running the gauntlet, they forming themselves into two parallel lines after having laid their guns down at the end which lay toward the homeward stretch. He says: "I started, they caught at me, tried to throw me down, struck at me with their knives and tomahawks, but I outran them; then every Indian sprang to his gun and fired, but they missed their aim and I escaped." This report gave the aged couple great alarm, especially the old lady who was very nervous and could only imagine herself brought to these western wilds to be made into mince meat by the murderous Red Skins. They had designed coming out on the head of the Nishnabotany River that night, but they now determined to push through to Dunham's Grove. The calves were loaded into the already filled wagon, the lash applied to the already wearied stock, a sharp lookout was kept as the shades of evening closed around them while yet many miles lay between them and their desired haven. With many a sigh they thought of the poor man whom they had met, and again their thoughts would revert to themselves that peradventure in the darkness the horrible red skins were close upon them, and again the lash was applied afresh and the poor animals urged forward. What made the matter the more serious to the old folks was, their son, J. B. Swain, had lived close neighbor to Harper in Dallas county and had always taken him to be a man of his word. Yet thoughts of unbelief would enter the minds of this aged couple when they in their calmer moments weighed the circumstances as related by Harper. They were brought up in the mountains of Tennessee and in an early day emigrated to Indiana, and were somewhat acquainted with Indian character. They recollected among other things that he carried an overcoat. It was a warm day, and certainly if he had been exposed to such a trial as running the gauntlet the overcoat would have been left behind. Yet the man seemed so scared and fatigued, as it appeared from his looks, that deep sympathy took place, and hastening forward they reached the settlement about midnight unharmed.

News that a man had been robbed by the Indians soon sped over the county.—A party of about twenty or thirty men assembled and started to visit the section of country where the robbery was said to have been committed, and camped for the night under a bluff in a small grove about half way between Vail and West Side. So little was their faith in the story that they did not even put out a picket guard. Beds of old grass were gathered and most of the party retired to rest, while others related pioneer incidents of border life and Indian cruelty. By early dawn all were astir, a cold lunch partaken of, and about noon the party reached the point described by Harper as the place where he surrendered to the Indians. They found his track where he left the road, but no others.—Several pioneers were in the company, among whom Jesse Mason was the most persevering. After all the rest gave up the chase he went several miles ahead to satisfy himself, and on his return, when asked his opinion of the man who told this atrocious story, he came very near saying naughty words but finally abbreviated them—"D——n rascal," is all we remem-



FORT PURDY—BUILT IN 1856

ber of him saying. All the rest of the company thought as much, and some expressed themselves in still stronger terms. It was well that Harper was out of reach, for we are sure he would have realized what he thought he made others believe. The party was hungry and tired. They had started with some provision but many fell into ranks destitute, and as the Commissary was very generous, all were invited to partake as long as a crumb of bread or leg of venison was to be had. The provision wagon was soon overloaded with the weak and "petered" ones, as they one by one gave out. Most of the company were on foot. They all reached Chapman's alive, and had Harper heard the denunciations, he certainly would have "gone west;" but we are informed that he went to Adel, took an oath that a certain tribe of Indians had robbed him, and was paid three hundred dollars by the government for the damage done, without any evidence from our county.

Close upon the heels of this came another Indian scare. Reports reached Judge Moorehead, of Ida grove, that a band of Indians had burned Smithland, on the Little Sioux, in Woodbury county, had driven off the inhabitants, some of whom they had tomahawked, taken captive some of the women and children, and were moving on Mapleton, thence up the valley, and would soon reach Ida grove. The Judge thinking discretion the better part of valor, he, with some others, hastily loaded their families into wagons and started in the night for Mason's Grove, arriving before daylight at Benjamin Dobson's. A council of citizens was called to deliberate; but excitement ran too high for cool deliberation. It was finally decided to post pickets out west and north and thus prevent a surprise. These soon repaired to their posts. That evening, April 29, 1857, quite a number of the neighbors "forted up" at B. Dobson's, others at Purdy's. But morning came and all were still wearing their scalps. Judge Moorehead concluded to take some of the neighbors out in the direction of Ida grove and if the coast was clear to go all the way over. Accordingly John Purdy, Thos. Dobson, and, I think, several others, whose names are not now recollected, started, keeping a sharp lookout, thinking they might get into trouble out about the soldiers. Seeing nothing they proceeded on to the Judge's residence in safety, and found two or three families of Bohemians quietly domiciled in the house. They were on their way to Sioux City, totally ignorant of any danger. The party went a short distance down the Maple from Ida grove. We met Wagoner (brother of our W. J. Wagoner) who was carrying the mail, traveling on foot, I think, from Smithland or Mapleton to Sac City; from him we learned that there had been some slight difficulty between some of the citizens of Smithland and the Indians.—Threats were made and the behavior of the Indians excited suspicion of danger, and these were soon exaggerated into actual deeds of outrage. Our party now made its way homeward, arriving about nightfall. After two almost sleepless nights, both we and our families enjoyed a good night's rest. In the morning our Maple friends bade us adieu and peacefully departed for their homes.

In closing these extracts from the writings of Thomas Dobson we are impelled to add portions of an address delivered by him at the 4th of July celebration in 1876, the great Centennial Fourth. In this address Mr. Dobson con-

densed and epitomized much of the foregoing information and adds the following valuable comparative statistics:

The number of inhabitants in the county in 1856, all told, was 235, of which 131 were males and 104 females. Whole number of voters, 63; number of acres of improved land, 458; number of farmers, 43; carpenters, 3; blacksmiths, 1; millers, 1; physicians, 1.

At this early day the population of Crawford county was chiefly composed and made up from the western and middle states—Ohio, 38; Indiana, 2; Pennsylvania, 12; Iowa, 48; New York, 23; Maine, 1; New Hampshire, 3; Vermont, 3; Massachusetts, 3; Virginia, 2; Kentucky, 5; Illinois, 47; Michigan, 5; North Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 4; Missouri, 4; Maryland, 4; New Jersey, 3; England, 12; Ireland, 5; Scotland, 1; Germany, 2; Canada, 2; Wisconsin, 5; representing nineteen states and four nationalities.

The number of bushels of spring wheat harvested in 1856 was 878; bushels of corn harvested, 11,135; bushels of potatoes harvested, 1,080. The number of cattle sold in 1856 was 152; value, \$4,052.00; number of hogs sold, 181; value, \$1,037.00.

The increase in population in our county for the next four years was very slow. One very marked feature in the settlement of Crawford county was that almost all that came in and made settlement remained. All the old settlers that came are here yet, except those removed by death. Some few have gone away but have almost invariably returned in a short time.

The population of the county in 1868 had increased to 1,640 and the number of voters to 348.

The number of acres of land in cultivation in Crawford in 1868 was 8,953 acres—Forest culture and the setting out of timber seems to have received considerable attention, 241 acres being planted to timber.

I also find that this year (1868) Crawford county raised 15,622 bushels of wheat; 96,542 bushels of corn; 9,661 bushels of oats, and 13,472 bushels of potatoes. This unprecedented increase in the amount of farm products was due to the existence of the Northwestern railroad, which reached Denison in October, 1866. Previous to this time grain had only been raised for home consumption and what cattle and hogs we had to sell were driven long distances to market. From about the year 1867 the several branches of industry in the county received a fresh impetus; the tide of immigration, which hitherto had been slow, now began to pour in upon us, not only from the different states of the United States but from Europe—mostly from Ireland, England, Scotland, Germany, Sweden, France, and Norway, each sending large colonies and those too that have proven by their residence among us to be a sober and industrious class of citizens.

On the 1st of January, 1775, Crawford county contained 1,224 dwelling houses and 1,240 families, with 6,038 inhabitants; of this number 1,904 were born in Iowa and 2,674 born in the United States outside of Iowa; and the number born in foreign countries who had emigrated to and settled in this county, was 1,389. Of the entire population there was at this date 2,122 under 21 years of age. As a proof that our population was mostly an agricultural class we had in cultivation, January 1, 1875, 58,058 acres; of this amount 24,-

ooo acres was in spring wheat; 17,157 in corn; 72 in rye; 1,900 in oats; 584 in barley; and 50 in buckwheat, with almost an untold quantity of potatoes, garden vegetables, etc. In addition to this we had 433 acres of timber planted and 19,915 rods of hedge. We had 1,072 bearing apple trees, from which we gathered in 1874, 178 bushels of apples and the number of fruit trees set and not in bearing was at this date 22,029. Total value of farm products, \$483,337; and the total valuation of horses, cattle and hogs and sheep is set down at \$179,516.00; and value of dairy products, \$32,575.00. Number of horses in the county, 3,472; mules, 208; milch cows, 3,511; that is one to every two persons in the county. Number of cattle sold for slaughter in 1874 was 2,240; hogs, 8,595; about 4,367 sheep on hand and about 1,000 were sent to market from Otter Creek and Goodrich townships alone during the years 1874 and 1875. Besides loss by dogs and wolves is set down at 100. We are almost ashamed to note that the census returns gives the number of dogs in the county as being 1,070—for all practical purposes we could easily dispense with 999 of these worthless curs.

To recapitulate: Population of Crawford county in 1856, 235; 1865, 574; 1867, 1,100; 1869, 1,640; 1873, 3,777; 1875, 6,038.

Who says Crawford county is not a live county when we state that in 1874 there were 255 births and of the 6,000 inhabitants at this date 4,578 were born in the United States; 126 in British America; 109 in England and Wales; 135 in Ireland; 34 in Scotland; 186 in Germany; 5 in Bohemia and Holland; and 89 in Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Number of foreigners not naturalized, 149; number of voters, 1,254; number of militia, 852.

And now at the close of my brief historical sketch allow me to congratulate you upon the prosperous condition of our county. Twenty-six years ago this summer one solitary family spent the 4th of July all alone nestled up yonder in Dunham's Grove (Cornelius Dunham accompanied by Franklin Prentice and wife). What think you were their emotions? What their aspirations? Did they expect in the short space of twenty-six years to see the then vast domain of country with its hills and valleys clad in living green, elk and deer singly and by dozens skipping and bounding away at the approach of the stealthy hunter or falling before the aim of his trusty rifle, give way for the vast assemblage of patriotic citizens that have met here today in common with the patriotic citizens of our glorious republic to celebrate the One Hundredth Anniversary of our National Existence—the Great Centennial.

CHAPTER X.

REMINISCENCES OF B. F. WICKS.

“From west and east to the bounteous feast
The clan came trooping in.”

It is recorded that in the first county election there was a tie vote for district clerk between Thomas Dobson and B. F. Wicks, and that the tie was decided by drawing lots. We may rest assured that the contest was a friendly one and that there were no hard feelings as to which should occupy the magnificent position, paying less than fifty dollars a year. Just as Mr. Dobson was representative of the emigration that came to us from the west, Mr. Wicks was representative of the on-coming settlers from the east. How they met and mingled, how prejudices were broken down and how they became one great, happy family, is a pleasant story and filled with food for thought for all of us. It is pleasant to note that Mr. Wicks still lives with his good wife, enjoying peace and plenty, in honorable retirement after many strenuous years. Although he now lives at Independence, Missouri, his kindly face is well known to all of us, and we are glad indeed to include here his reminiscences as to his coming to the county, and the illuminating pictures that he gives us of the mode of life, the hardships, and the pleasures of the days of first settlement. By request Mr. Wicks has contributed his reminiscences, as follows:

I was born December 14, 1823, in Chautauqua county, New York, and lived there until I was married to Miss Christiana Klock, December 25, 1852. The next year we concluded to leave home and kindred and go west, which we did, landing in Sheffield, Illinois, April 1, 1853.

We lived in Illinois one year, but as we wished a home of our own and the homestead land was all taken up in this country, we concluded to go farther west. I bought an ox team and a wagon, and August 1, 1854, we packed and started, in company with Clark Winans, Sr., and family, headed for Nebraska or some other place in the west. We traveled until we reached a town called Panora, in Iowa, where we stopped to rest ourselves and teams. At this place we met a man named Ambrose Richardson, who had just come from the Boyer valley, in Crawford county. He inquired where we were going and we told him to Nebraska. He spoke very highly of Crawford county and advised us to turn and go there. After he had gone we concluded that each of us men

would take a horse and go over and see the country of which he had spoken. This we did, and we looked up and down the valley and found it to be a fine country. We then returned to our families, but we did not decide definitely as to our course. The next morning we hitched up, all ready to start. I was in the lead, so I halloosed back to Winans, "Which way?" He shouted back and told me to take a stick and go to the forks of the road and to stand the stick up straight and to let it fall as it would and we would go the way it fell. I took the stick and stood it up as straight as I could and let it fall. It fell toward the Boyer valley. I then went back to my team, took my whip, and said "Gee!" for the road turned to the right. It took two days to reach Dunham's Grove, and the next day we drove into Mason's Grove, September 1, 1854. We drove down through the grove to where Benjamin Dobson lived, and there we camped. Dobson, with the help of his neighbors, had built a dam across the Boyer river near Deloit, and was putting in a saw mill and also a small pair of burrs to grind corn meal. The next morning some of the settlers came to our camp to get acquainted and to assist us in getting located.

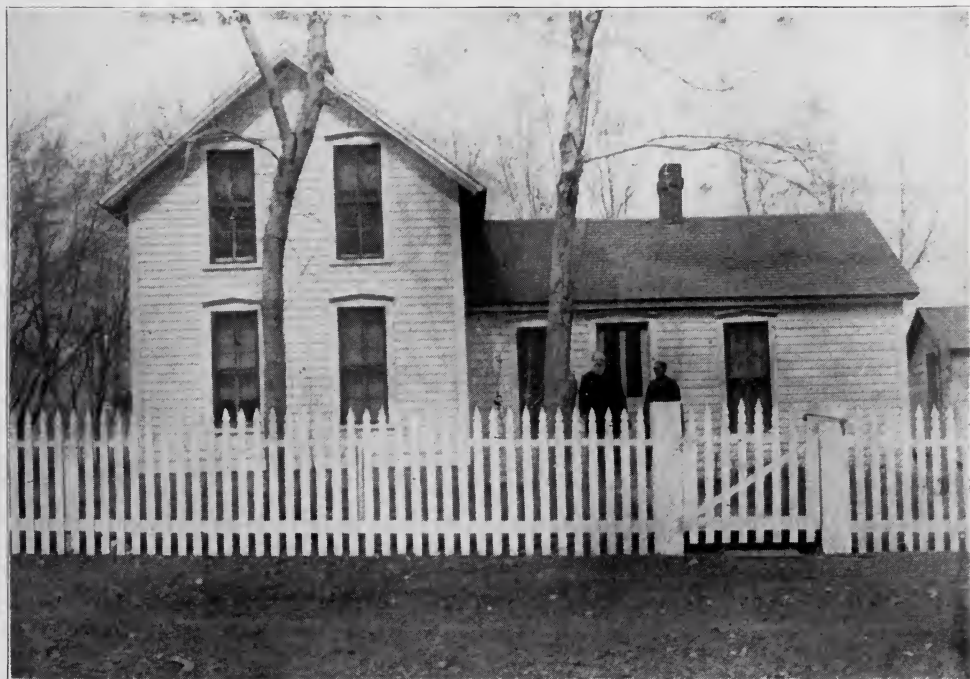
We found ten families in and around Mason's Grove, the families of Benjamin Dobson, Thomas Dobson, Jesse Mason, Levi Skinner, Alonzo R. Hunt, Noah V. Johnson, George J. Johnson, Calvin Horr, Franklin Prentice and Ambrose Richardson. There were no other settlers nearer than Buck Grove, about twelve or fourteen miles distant, although down the Boyer valley at the west end of the county there were quite a goodly number who had located up and down the valley.

In looking about for a location Mr. Mason showed us a claim of eighty acres that he had taken up. He had built a log house and had about ten acres broken. This claim just suited Clark Winans, for he had a large family and it was getting late to make hay. He, therefore, bought the claim and improvements and moved in. At the same time I was looking for a location. Mr. Calvin Horr told me he had two claims and that he would let me have one, so I looked them over and found that they were good claims and he allowed me to take my choice, which I did.

I next looked for a place where I could live until I could cut my hay and build a house for myself. Levi Skinner said that he had a good large house and that I would be welcome to move in with him until I got my house up. His claim and mine joined and I gladly accepted the offer and moved in. I then commenced cutting my hay. Grass was green and fresh, as there had been no frost. It was a remarkable fall and winter, as warm as October most of the time and the ground hardly froze all winter, although we had a few light snows and a few cold days. By this time our provisions had given out and our money was about gone, so we had to depend upon my labor for bread and meat. I went to Jesse Mason, who had made quite a good start and raised quite a crop of corn that year. He told me that he had sold much of his corn but that he had saved enough so that he thought he could let me have what I wanted, or at least that he would divide with me and take work in payment. Corn was two dollars and a half a bushel, but Mason sold it much cheaper to settlers. I was not much afraid of starving, however, for the streams were full of fish, there were plenty of prairie chickens, deer could be found almost any-



MR. AND MRS. B. F. WICKS



HOME OF MR. AND MRS. B. F. WICKS, DELOIT

where and in the timber there were quail, occasionally a wild turkey and a few wild hogs in the groves down the river. November 1st, I commenced to cut logs for my house. After I worked a few days Skinner proposed that we go hunting the next day, as he wished to look at the country up the Otter creek. I had no gun, but he said he would let me have one and would find the ammunition and help me on my house when we got back enough to make up for lost time. The next morning we went up Otter creek, about three miles and found some very nice country. We saw some deer, but they were too far off to shoot. We also found a dead buffalo. Undoubtedly some hunter had given him his death wound but he had managed to get away from his pursuer and afterward was forced to lie down and die. The animal had probably been dead a week or more. We knocked off one of his horns and brought it home with us and I fastened it in my barn as a harness peg, and on that peg I hung my harness for fifty years.

Jesse Mason was the first person with whom I became acquainted. He was a father to the new settlers, not only to them, but to all the emigrants who, with their families, came through looking for homes. Many times he took them into his home, fed them and their teams, and sent them on their way rejoicing. He lived on the most traveled road and he had more opportunity for doing good, but I found all of the settlers kindly and ready to help in times of need.

One day, toward the last of January, 1855, there came a light snow, two or three inches deep, a good tracking snow. Jesse Mason was out that day and killed, I think, four or five deer. He came to me, asking me to take my oxen and sled and follow his track, load the deer on my sled, and bring them in in the morning. I hitched up and started and met him all ready for the trip. We followed his track and, while he branched off to kill more deer, I kept on the trail and loaded those animals which he had killed the day before. While I was doing this he came to me and told me that he had killed two or three more. We loaded them all, seven in number, I think, and started for home.

I got my house finished about the 15th of January, and moved into it at once.

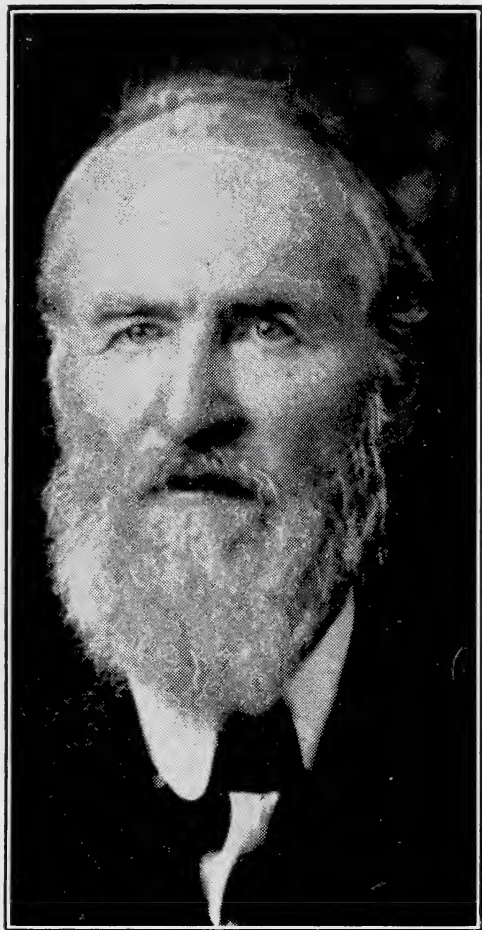
We enjoyed life in those days. The settlers would usually get together on Sundays, for we would not work on that day. The men would pitch horse shoes and shoot at a mark, and the women would get up a dinner that could not be beaten, I doubt, even in this enlightened age of the world. There was plenty of meat, both wild and tame, eggs, milk, butter, honey, and wild fruit. The women often met and had a quilting bee and sometimes we met at a neighbor's house in the evening and had a dance, with Ben F. Dobson as fiddler, if I remember rightly. Once in a great while a Methodist preacher would come, probably from Council Bluffs, and preach for us a few times. Later Uncle John McIntosh, of Galland's Grove, an elder of the Latter Day Saints church, came to Mason's Grove and held meetings near Mason's home. After the meeting Mason would ask all the congregation to go to his house and take dinner, and all who went were well fed on hot biscuit, honey, good coffee, etc.

The winter of 1856-57 was a very hard one. Snow fell three feet deep and stayed all winter. Several were badly frozen, being caught in what was known as the Big Storm. Our oldest daughter was born that winter.

At first we got our mail and provisions from Council Bluffs. Usually some one would go and bring the mail and things for the rest of the neighbors. I think it was in the spring of 1855 that our first election was held at Mason's Grove. This was a township election, there being but one township for the entire county, and that was Milford. At this election Alonzo R. Hunt was elected justice of the peace, Calvin Horr, constable, Thomas Dobson school director, and I was elected assessor. I had to assess the whole county, where there was anybody to assess. Further, I had to travel on foot as I had no horse of my own, and the neighbors horses were all busy. It took me about a week to take the first assessment in Crawford county. In the fall of 1855 I was elected treasurer and recorder for the county. When I entered upon my duties there were no conveniences for doing the work and no office provided. I had to do the work at home and I kept the county funds in a tin box under a loose board of the floor for safe keeping, for I had no lock on my house. At this time, I was very busy splitting rails to fence a piece of land that I broke, so I got my wife to do some recording and I managed to receive the taxes and keep on splitting rails. Morris McHenry was at this time teaching school in Mason's Grove, and I got him to come and write for me on Saturdays and at odd spells, thus we got along first rate. I think Ed Howorth was the first one who paid taxes in the county. He also had the first deed recorded. I issued the first receipt for taxes in the county and also recorded the first deed. In the spring of 1856, I had fenced my ten acres for breaking and was ready for plowing, but I had no team. One day H. C. Laub came to my house to buy the corn I had raised the year before. It was what was called sod corn, and was very good. Laub said he would do my plowing and take corn in payment, so we struck a bargain and he went to work. I think he was to have two bushels per day; corn was worth two dollars a bushel. From this time on, nothing unusual happened, excepting that the country filled up rapidly with settlers, until about the commencement of the rebellion.

About this time the Indians became quite troublesome. One night they stole, I think, either four or five horses. The neighbors turned out the next morning and overtook them somewhere about Maple Grove and had a running fight with them, but the Indians got away with the horses. In 1862 I bought a span of horses, built an addition to my house, built a stable snug against the house, and had a door between the house and the stable, so that if I heard a strange noise at night I could be ready for a fight. In 1863-64 the Indians became still more troublesome. It was at the time of the Indian massacre in Minnesota and my wife became somewhat alarmed for her own and the children's safety. For this reason we returned to Illinois for a visit until the scare was over. We stayed about two years, returning in the spring of 1865. This year I was elected justice of the peace, an office which I held for six years. In this same year I was elected as one of the county supervisors.

When we came there were no doctors in Crawford county, but some of the women were quite skillful in the use of such roots and herbs as grew in the groves and were excellent at nursing, having learned by experience and being obliged to depend upon their own resources in times of sickness, but the community in general was quite healthy. There was some ague and a few cases



MAJOR HOLMES, CHARTER OAK

of typhoid fever. I believe that John Dunham, of Dunham's Grove, died of fever the first year of my residence in Crawford county. The first doctor who came to Mason's Grove was a Dr. Huston. He did not stay long but moved to some other locality. While he was there, however, he was at one time very useful to my own family, being the means of saving the life of our infant child, who was very sick. After home remedies failed, I started in the night after this doctor and had to go through a considerable woods. I had gotten but a little way when I saw a large panther feeding on the carcass of some animal. I went back and got the pitch fork for protection, as I had no gun, but when I returned the panther had gone and I saw no more of him. We had several kinds of wild animals which might be considered dangerous, such as the large, gray timber wolves, prairie wolves, panthers, lynx, wild cats, wild hogs, and, worst of all, the rattle snakes, of which there were many. My wife being watchful for the safety of her children kept a sharp lookout for snakes, which would often creep into the door yard, and once she found an ugly rattler coiled up in the playhouse she had fixed under the trees for the little girl. There were several cases of snake bite, but none died from the effects. The next year after coming to Crawford, I started one morning early to help Mr. A. R. Hunt on his farm, about three quarters of a mile from my place; it is the place long since known as the "Michael Ainsworth place." When about half way there, I looked up to the hill on my right and saw a herd of five elk. They soon ran out of sight but I noticed how the male elk, with horns fully seven feet across, would tip his head sidewise when passing between the trees. That was the only time I saw elk in Crawford.

One day I was going down through some heavy timber toward Dobson's mill, near Deloit, and met a young man dragging along an animal he had just shot. He did not know what it was, but I did as soon as I examined it. It was a lynx. I had seen them in the woods of York state. This one was as large as a good sized dog. A peculiar mark to tell them by is a tassle on each ear. They are nearly as dangerous as a panther.

The neighbors had a great laugh on me at one time when I went out hunting for deer with a neighbor and a borrowed gun. He was a hunter and knew the habits of deer. He said if they were shot at or scared in the valley, they would take for the hills, or, if in the hill lands, would run for the lowlands. I went on the ridge while my neighbor went along the valley. I soon heard him shoot and pretty soon saw a drove of deer coming up the hill. I dropped down in the tall grass so they could not see me until they were near enough for me to shoot, but when I looked again they were almost on to me and I jumped up, left my gun on the ground, and instinctively threw up my hands. I was not afraid of them, but I did not want to be run over. We got no deer at that time. At another time I was out with Levi Skinner, and about half a mile from my house we passed a brush patch and his dog became very excited at something in the brush, but did not dare to go in. Skinner thought it must be a bear, or something very bad, if his dog did not dare to attack it. It turned out to be a very large and vicious looking wild boar, with long, wicked looking tusks. I heard that the way there came to be wild hogs in the grove

was from Dunham's herd of hogs, which he turned out in his grove and some of them had wandered away several years before and become wild.

I made the statement that when I moved to Mason's Grove there were no settlers nearer than Buck Grove. I forgot Mr. Dunham, who lived in the grove named after him, which was about six miles from Mason's Grove. He had lived there several years and most of his children were married and lived near him. He owned considerable land and kept a great deal of stock. He broke his land with a plow that would look queer nowadays. It was very large and heavy and was lifted about by a lever. It had wheels attached in front and was drawn by from eight to ten yoke of cattle. He could turn over a lot of ground in a day.

At first there was an abundance of wild fruit, such as grapes, cherries, strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries and several kinds of plums, some of which were choice. The wild fruit lasted pretty well until orchards were planted and there were apples and other tame fruits growing. The best of the wild fruit, along with the native grass, disappeared as the county became settled. In the spring of 1865 or '66 I planted the first orchard and vineyard in my locality. The winter before, a young man by the name of Joseph Woodruff boarded with me and taught the district school. We talked over the possibilities of fruit raising and concluded, in the spring, to go to Des Moines and get fruit trees to plant. I took my team and wagon, as that was before the railroad went through our county, and brought home apple trees, grape vines and a few strawberry plants. I had good luck with my fruit and, in time, raised an abundance for many years. Some of the trees and vines I planted that spring can still be seen on the old farm.

The prairie fires were a source of great danger to the early settlers. The grass and other vegetation grew rank and in the fall of the year fires would sweep across the country and destroy fences, crops, hay stacks, etc., unless the farmer was prepared for it by having burnt around his field, which was quite a task. Many times I have, in company with neighbors, fought these prairie fires to keep them from destroying our homes and property. Even our lives were in danger at times. Levi Skinner was badly burned. Sometimes in the night, my wife or I would see a fire coming in the distance and we knew that our wheat stack, or our hay would be destroyed unless something was done at once. We would go out and begin to "back fire," as we called it. This was done by starting a fire in the dry grass along the fence and whipping it out on the side next the fence, letting it burn from the fence out. If the prairie fire, which was usually driven by a strong wind, was not too near the back fire would have burnt a wide enough space to prevent the oncoming flames from jumping over. Once my wife and I were down by the river fishing and saw a fire coming from the other side, but we thought it would go no further than the river. We started for home, but the fire jumped the river and came near catching us before we could get out of the grass and to a place of safety. In our early experiences my wife stood by me, shoulder to shoulder. She was determined to succeed and to make good. She left many relatives and friends, together with the comforts of a good home in the east, to take up life on the frontier, and she did her share in making us a home of our own, which in time

we made very comfortable. She was, however, very much afraid of Indians. I sometimes had to be away from home the entire day at my work, and often she would then take her sewing and the baby, with a pillow and a blanket, and spend the day out in the grove. Indians frequently passed through but they were for the most part friendly, asking for something to eat or, as was often the case, stopping to inquire the way to the Indian trail, which was not far from our house and which led to Council Bluffs, or Kaneville, where there was an Indian settlement. One day while my wife was alone in the house, busy with her work, she looked up and saw an Indian standing in the door. She was too frightened to speak, but he held out his hand and said "How!" She then knew that he meant no harm and gave him the directions which he asked. After he left the house she went out to see if he had gone, as directed. She could see several Indians with ponies and they all rode off together. Probably one cause of her great fear was the experience of her grandparents and parents, who were settlers of the Mohawk valley in New York when the Indians were making war on the whites and she had often heard the thrilling stories of those times.

There was some cause for alarm, for as early as 1857 or '58 I remember being at a house in what was then called the "Burnt Woods," afterward "Purdy's Grove," where a number of the settlers had gathered for protection if the Indians should come with hostile intent. Among those who were there I recall a Mrs. Todd, afterward Mrs. Marshall. She, like the rest of the women, was quite excited and had a large knife in her hand and told what she would do if the Indians came. But she had no chance to show what she would do, for the Indians did not come, though we heard of their depredations in other places and it caused some fear in our neighborhood.

My first home in Crawford county was a log house, sixteen feet square. I hewed the logs and put them together, as log houses are usually built. I also spit up logs and made a pretty good floor and made a fire place of sod in one end. We also had two small windows and a door, which we fastened with a wooden latch. The string was always outside and many times we had a cheerful company of friends gather around that old fire place on winter evenings; people who, like ourselves, had known better surroundings but were struggling to gain a foothold in the new country. Those are good days to remember. It was not long before Benjamin Dobson had his mill running and a little later Esau McKim built a saw mill, so we could bring logs to their mills and have them sawed into boards. Soon I had an addition put on my log house, which made it much more convenient. In 1866 I built the large and comfortable house and barn which still remain. I got nearly all the material for my buildings from my own timber and had it sawed at my home mills, but for the pine finishings, doors, windows and such things, I had to go to Boone, as there were no lumber yards in Denison. In the year 1882 I moved from my farm to the village of Deloit, which is one mile north. I resided there twenty-six years. On my return from Illinois, in 1865, I brought back a buggy, which, I believe, was the first one owned in or around Mason's Grove.

Although we were in the wilds of a new country where news of what the world was doing was very scarce, we still took an interest in the affairs of the nation. Some one or two in the community took newspapers, which I think

were published at Council Bluffs, and so we kept in touch with the political events of the times. We celebrated the Fourth of July, for the first time, in the year 1857, at Deloit, which was the first town of the county to be laid out, and we celebrated almost every year from that time on. We held several such gatherings in the grove east of Deloit. At our celebrations we had a few patriotic speeches and three cheers for the flag, and sometimes we had a little fife and drum music. E. S. Plimpton played the fife; I played the snare drum, but I have forgotten who beat the bass drum—perhaps we had none at that time. Our dinners on those occasions were what was called a “free dinner.” We had a long table set, and on this all our eatables were placed and every one was invited to come and dine. This custom of a free dinner we kept up for several years.

When the Civil war broke out three of the very first settlers were among those who went from Crawford county to fight for the Union. Their names were Franklin Prentice, Alonzo R. Hunt, and Joseph Skinner. The last two named died in the service of their country. I have lived to see great changes in Crawford county, where once I could tell the names of all the people. At first they settled in and around the groves; later the prairie land was taken. Land, that once was homesteaded and preempted for one dollar and a quarter per acre, is now worth one hundred dollars an acre, or more. The few roads in those days usually followed the ridges to avoid the sloughs and low places. There were no bridges and the streams had to be forded. Our means of travel were usually by ox team, or on foot, for but few owned horses. Now we have horses and, instead of the slow pace of the ox team, the automobile is seen speeding swiftly along all over the country. Once we got our mail at Council Bluffs—now it is delivered daily at our doors, besides which we have the telephone, which is in most of the homes throughout the county. Log schoolhouses were built first and were used also for religious services, or other kinds of public meetings. Now the county is wealthy, covered with beautiful and well improved farms, has many prosperous towns and the best of schools and churches everywhere. Crawford is indeed one of the best counties in the state, and Iowa the best state in the Union.

REMINISCENCES OF MORRIS M'HENRY.

“The territory of which Crawford county was formed was at a very early date included in Benton county; but in 1851 it was named Crawford and attached to Pottawattamie county. When Shelby county was organized, Crawford was attached to it for judicial purposes, but until Crawford county had some settlers the attachment was not very strong. The county did not begin to be settled until 1849 and the government surveys were not made until 1852 and 1853. This county was often visited by hunters for meat and honey, years before settlers came to live, and was a border land between the Sioux Indians on the north and the Sac and Fox Indians, around Fort Des Moines, and the Pawnees along the mouth of the Platte in Nebraska. These last two tribes were friends, and enemies of the Sioux. About the year 1846 the Sioux fell upon a small party of Pawnees near where the town of Adel, (Dallas county) stands



MORRIS McHENRY

and killed most of them—one or two escaped and reached Fort Des Moines. One of the sons of the renowned Chief Black Hawk raised a party and followed the Sioux and overtook them on the Coon river just below Sac City and killed quite a number of the Sioux and took their scalps, and, on their return to Fort Des Moines, raised quite a 'fugo' in getting enough skunks' tails to ornament their leggings. One tail for each scalp was the requirement among this tribe. The Sioux have made three thieving raids into Crawford county since its first settlement.

"The first settlement was made in the year of 1849. Cornelius Dunham, a Vermonter, had settled in Jackson county, Iowa, and having quite a large herd of cattle and hogs concluded to take Horace Greeley's advice and 'go west.' He hired Franklin Prentice and wife to come and take care of his stock and build him a house. He engaged Reuben Blake to help drive the stock and took his oldest daughter, Sophronia Dunham, to help with the cooking. They reached this county in the early summer of 1849, thus becoming the 'Forty Niners' of Crawford county. Leaving Mr. Prentice and family to care for the stock and build him a cabin, Mr. Dunham and daughter, with Mr. Blake, returned to Jackson county, to raise a crop and bring the family on in the fall. The Dunham cabin was notable in one thing; the door was made by cutting a large walnut tree and hewing it down until about four inches thick and then hung with large wooden hinges. Mr. Prentice lived here alone, seeing no one, supplying his family with meat from the droves of elk and deer around him. But before the Dunham family reached him he was in great need of powder and was getting ready to start in the direction of Council Bluffs to find a settlement and some powder, but the opportune arrival of Mr. Dunham and family saved him the trouble. Some of the Dunham hogs were lost and their progeny became wild hogs and were seen by the settlers some ten or twelve years afterward. Mr. Dunham's family consisted of the following: Margaret, his wife; Cornelius, Jr.; Sophronia; Margaret; Samuel S.; Martha L.; and Z. Taylor Dunham, the youngest. His oldest son, John A. Dunham, was married in Jackson county and did not come to this county until 1854. Cornelius Dunham first settled on what is now the Tracy Chapman farm, in section 2, East Boyer township. The next settlement was made in the spring of 1851, by Jesse Mason, at Mason's Grove, just east of Deloit. Mr. Mason came to the county from near Kaneshville, now Council Bluffs. His wife's brothers, George J. and Noah V. Johnson, came with him; also a neighbor, Levi L. Skinner, came at the same time. They traveled with ox teams, coming up the divide between the Mosquito and Pigeon creeks. They came in by way of Buck Grove and Coon Grove and finally reached the south bank of the East Boyer river, in what is now the city of Denison. The river being too deep to ford they camped on the bottom and set to work to build a bridge. After a few days of hard work they finished their bridge just at night, ready to go over the next morning. They slept on the ground and in the wagons. During the night, a tremendous downpour of rain came; the river overflowed the bottom, and, before they were aware of it, the water was in and around their beds and wagons, and they were compelled to flee, in the dark, to the hill south of their camp. Although they lost their bridge they soon had another, and successfully completed their journey to Mason's

Grove, Mason settling on the east side of the grove and Skinner on the south. Mr. Franklin Prentice and his two little boys were living on the west side. These families, with the Dunham family, at Dunham's Grove, comprised all the families in the county during 1851.

"During the fall of this year a small band of the Sioux Indians from Minnesota, were passing through this country. They came to Galland's Grove in the north part of Shelby county, and there stole a pony of Captain James M. Butler. They came on up to Mason's Grove, and at the home of Jesse Mason stole an auger, and I believe some other things, Mason, and the other men, being up at Four Mile Grove (near Ells) for a few days hunt. Mason came back to camp ahead of the other hunters and found the Indians in possession and about to appropriate everything in sight. Mason knew the Indians too well to try to scare them by shooting. He cut himself a good big whip and took after them, hitting all that he could reach and told them to "get right out of there!" and drove them all out of the grove and across the Boyer river. You will notice that all places hereabouts were located by 'Groves.' We had no towns and people had to live near groves in order to get fuel and building material, and to have neighbors.

"Mason settled in section 17, Milford township, just east of Deloit. Levi L. Skinner settled on section 19, in the same township.

"Mason bought a cabin and claim for fifty dollars that Mr. Prentice had made on the east side of the grove, and Prentice took another claim and built a cabin, on the Boyer bottom on the west side of the grove. His claim was in section 18, Milford township, and section 13, Goodrich township. Prentice's family was a wife and two small boys, Chauncey F. and Jacob L. Mason's family consisted of himself and wife and five daughters, Elizabeth, Jane, Margaret, Angeline and Matilda, and two prospective sons-in-law, George J. and Noah V. Johnson. The Skinner family was made up of Skinner and wife, one son and one daughter, one step-son, three step-daughters and Calvin Horr, a prospective son-in-law. In 1851 James M. Butler, of Galland's Grove, engaged Lorenzo Dow Rudd to build him a cabin in North Grove, in the southwest corner of what is now Union township, Crawford county. He was assisted by John Rudd, S. R. Rudd, and Walter Jackson. In this cabin was born the first white child born in Crawford county, Don J. Butler, son of James M. and Catherine Butler, on April 16, 1852. The next births, and long thought to be the first born, were the Mason twins, David and Jesse, born September 12, 1852. Thomas Dobson, who played a prominent part in the early settlement of the county, came in 1852 and settled in Mason's Grove, near the Boyer river. With him or soon thereafter, came his father, who began the erection of a mill on the Boyer, which proved a great blessing to this community and the country north and west. Settlers from Ida Grove, Mapleton, Smithland, and even as far north as Cherokee, came to it to get their corn ground and a little lumber. Thus, at the end of 1852, the population of the county was made up of only some six families. In this year, however, the government surveys were commenced by a Mr. Anderson, who surveyed the county into townships of six miles square, George and Noah V. Johnson assisting him as chainmen. In 1852 A. R. Hunt settled at Mason's Grove. Benjamin Dobson brought on

his family and continued to work on his mill. Edmund Howorth with his sons, Edmund and Daniel, and daughters, Sarah and Mary, settled at Bee Tree Grove in Union township. This Bee Tree Grove was a two bee tree, or three bee tree, I have forgotten which. These two families made up the immigrants for 1853. The government surveys were completed this year.

"On October 12, 1853, Rev. Thomas Dobson, of the original Latter Day Saints church, united in marriage George J. Johnson and Elizabeth Mason, Noah V. Johnson and Jane Mason, Calvin Horr and Elizabeth H. Mowery. The licenses were procured from the county judge of Shelby county.

"In 1854 came John A. Dunham, son of Cornelius Dunham (the first settler) with his family and occupied the farm first settled by his father, who moved down the Boyer, near Dunlap, in Boyer township. With John A. Dunham came his father-in-law, Rufus Richardson, who settled at Mason's Grove; also Clark Winans, B. F. Wicks, E. W. Fowler and D. J. Fowler, who likewise settled there. John Gilbreath and John R. Bassett settled at Coon Grove, and Mathias Didra, all in Denison township. William H. Jordan, Robert D. Butterworth, and Charles Kennedy settled in Union township. Walter Jackson, who assisted in the erection of the Butler cabin, must have been in the county, for he is said to have died in the county in August, 1854, and his was said to have been the first death, John A. Dunham, who died in December of that year, being the second. John Gilbreath made the first entry of government land, the southwest quarter of section 36, Denison township.

"1855 was a notable year, for John Dobson and Lucy Winans were married February 18 of that year. John had to face the storm and cold and travel something like one hundred miles into the Nishnabotny country to find the county judge of Shelby county to get the license. John and Lucy are still living (1902) on the same section on which they were married, loved and respected by all. The old farm has become a town with two railroads, known as Deloit. In this year the settlers at Mason's Grove were Isaac B. Goodrich, S. B. Greek, John Purdy, Henry C. Laub, S. S. Sisley, James Slater and Solomon Slater. In Union township: S. E. Dow, S. J. Comfort, John Vore, Cyrus B. Whitmore and Reuben Vore.

"In April of this year, 1855, was held the first election. It was held in Coon Grove, I think, at a squatter's cabin, named Harrison.

"At the August election, 1855, John R. Bassett was elected county judge and B. F. Wicks, treasurer and recorder. On September 15, 1855, Judge Bassett issued his first marriage license, to Samuel G. Kennedy and Mary Howorth, who were married, by him, at his home in Coon Grove.

"J. W. Denison entered a large amount of land for the Providence Western Land Company in the winter of 1855 and 1856. On May 24, 1856, the county seat was located on section 11, township 83, range 39, and the town named Denison. In this year quite an increase in the population was had. George C. King, William J. Todd, John B. Huckstep, Edwin Cadwell, Tracy Chapman, Esau McKim, Robert H. Darling, Reuben Blake, O. F. Wight, Joseph Brogden, Eli Baer, and Morris McHenry settled at Mason's Grove; B. B. Bishop, H. B. Ernst and Stephen B. Conner in the southwest part of the county. In September of this year, was surveyed the first county road, Jesse

the spot selected for the building site. Each end of every log was saddled and notched, so that they would lie close down, and the cabin was built up seven or eight feet high. When at this height, the next log laid lengthwise would be set in three feet from the outside edge of the cabin, then set on another end log, then set the next lengthwise log in three feet, and so on until the gable of the cabin was formed. It was then ready to cover with clapboards, which were usually cut from a straight grained tree, of four feet length, and were put over the roof, breaking joints. Snow would sometimes sift through the roof.

"The chimney was made by cutting an open place in one of the walls, as were likewise the windows and the door. If no window glass was available, greased paper was used in its stead. Inside, the houses were chinked and daubed by driving in cordwood sticks and daubing with clay, wet to the proper consistency, and put on in much the same way plaster is now applied."

Mr. Lawson also gives us the following interesting incidents concerning early milling difficulties:

"The first mill was built by Mr. Chatburn on the Boyer river near Woodbine (Harrison county) in 1854. He manufactured his mill stones from large boulders such as we find scattered upon our prairies. He used the leather tanned from an ox hide for making the belts and by his inventive genius he constructed a mill suitable for the grinding of corn. As an instance of the obstacles with which the early pioneers had to combat, we recite how, on one occasion, when these belts became softened by the rainfall, they were devoured by the ravenous wolves that over-ran the country, causing the mill to be put out of service until leather could be obtained from the east."

His description of the Indian raids is as follows:

"In the fall of 1853 the first Indian troubles commenced. The settlers in the different groves had not yet been troubled by Indian depredations and were indifferent and unbelieving when the strolling trappers told them that the Indians were beginning to be hostile. In September, 1853, Bill Reed was sitting in his cabin in the village of Manteno (which was a postoffice just on the western margin of Galland's Grove, in Shelby county) with three or four settlers, when the cabin door opened and in walked twelve Sioux warriors, who immediately commenced clearing the house of all they could find to eat. The settlers sat like statues, Indian style, uttering no word, maintaining this sensible attitude until after the departure of the Indians who ruthlessly took whatever they could lay their hands on, and started for the homes of other settlers. They would intimidate the settlers by their hideous warwhoops. During the same fall the Indians camped one evening about two miles south of Dowville. The whole community was alarmed. During the day most of the settlers had been robbed. A favorite pony was stolen from Jim Butler and he was determined to have it dead or alive. During the night the settlers gathered together—their number was about twenty. All were armed with rifles or shot guns. They came upon the camp of the Indians where they were roasting the stolen chickens and pork of the settlers. W. H. Jordan, who understood the peculiarities of Indian warfare, took charge of the plan of action and he advised the shooting of all the guns simultaneously for the purpose of alarming not only the Indians but surrounding settlers as well. The Indians immediately on

hearing the volley, broke camp and started on a retreat toward Mason's Grove, taking with them the Butler pony, though of this the settlers were not aware as they had decided to defer an attack until the next morning. On approaching their camp the next morning and finding they had departed, they set out in pursuit, following the track of the pony which the Indians had stolen. They traced them to Mason's Grove, where the Indians had done considerable plundering, and followed on their trail until night approached, taking up the trail left by the pony's hoofs again the next morning and Mr. Butler persisted in his pursuit until the Indians had almost reached Des Moines before he recovered his pony, a feat which he accomplished by bribing an Indian to aid him in enticing it away from their camp."

CHAPTER XI.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

We have seen that the first township election was held in 1854, but at that time the county was still under the jurisdiction of Shelby county. A petition was circulated, and, in 1855, Crawford became a separate political entity. Temporary officers were elected in April and permanent officers at the regular election, which was then held in the month of August. These first permanent officers were, John R. Bassett, county judge; B. F. Wicks, treasurer and recorder; and Thomas Dobson, district clerk. The county judge was in reality the entire government. He acted not only as judge but was, in and of himself, the board of supervisors. Judge Bassett, our second county judge, is worthy of more than passing comment. He lived to a ripe old age, each year but adding to the love and esteem in which he was held. We quote from the sketch of his life published at the time of his death, in 1892:

"John Richardson Bassett was born in Cayuga county, New York, November 9, 1811. He was married, to Sophia Nobles, on February 5, 1835, and removed to Crawford county, Iowa, in 1854. Upon the organization of the county he was elected county judge and served successive terms for ten years. Under his supervision the county seat was located, named, and the present courthouse built. He was baptized and became a member of the First Baptist church of Denison in May, 1860, under the ministrations of Rev. J. W. Denison, the pastor.

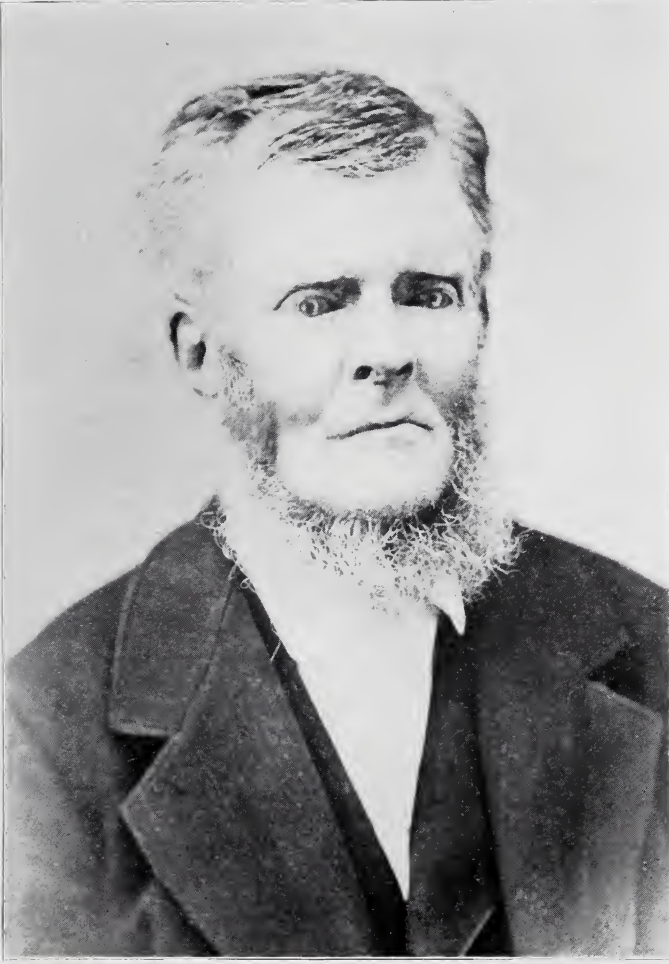
"Judge Bassett was one of the oldest citizens of the county. His first home was in a log cabin in Coon Grove, three miles south of Denison. This home was known for miles around, as the Judge and his wife were noted for their hospitality. It was while living here that he acted as county judge. In the early days this was the most important office in the county. The Judge was greatly adverse to debt, and it was due to his strong stand that Crawford county was not plunged in indebtedness in the years of its early history. He also filled the posts of justice of the peace, township clerk, school director and road supervisor, and in every capacity he always placed the public interest foremost, and discharged every trust with fidelity. He was not merely personally honest, but he saw to it that no one else robbed the public—which is quite a different thing and requires a higher degree of moral courage.

"For seventeen or more years he lived in the pretty woods one mile north-east of Denison. Later he resided in Dow City, in South Dakota, and finally in Arion. After leaving the farm, he ever made his home with his only daughter, Mrs. Richards. Not the least of the nobler qualities of the judge was shown in the tender care he gave his invalid wife for many years when she was so helpless that her time was spent in bed or in a comfortable chair. On February 5, 1885, their friends gathered at their home to celebrate their golden wedding. The testimonials of esteem bestowed at that time showed clearly the high consideration in which they were held by all who knew them.

"Judge Bassett died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ellen Richards, at Arion, on Saturday, December 17, 1892, at 10:00 P. M. The funeral services were conducted at the Baptist church in Denison on Monday at 2:30 P. M. The sermon, preached by Rev. Coffee, of Dow City, was most appropriate. Speaking for the old settlers, Mr. E. S. Plimpton gave the deceased many fitting words of praise. The pallbearers were Morris McHenry, Edmund Howorth, George Barr, W. W. Coon, David Rush and George Shinn, the four first named being old settlers of the county. The attendance at the church was large. Burial was made in the Denison cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Richards and their daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Slocumb, Mr. Charles Noble and son, Marion, were the immediate relatives in attendance.

"Judge Bassett was a devout Christian, a doer of good deeds. Despite the adversities of life, he seemed always cheerful and hopeful. His life is an example of the honors which can be obtained by conscientiously doing one's duty, fearlessly and honestly before God. His life work was well done and he is now at peace with his Father above."

In regard to the other county officers; the clerk held an office which would correspond, today, with that of auditor and clerk of the court. Going back to the records, now housed in our beautiful courthouse, we find a musty old volume, the pages, blue and the writing, brown and dim. In this book, the first record is dated, September 3, 1855, and is a court call by the county judge, the business on hand being a road petition in the vicinity of Deloit. This petition was not allowed—establishing a precedent which has been followed by the board of supervisors many times. On December 3, of the same year, it is recorded that the county judge, the clerk and recorder met and presented their different accounts of moneys received by them, from August 1st to December 1st, and divided the same between them according to law. The whole amount received to apply on their salaries was seventeen dollars and forty-five cents, which was divided as follows: John R. Bassett, county judge, five dollars and seventy-five cents; Thomas Dobson, clerk, three dollars; Benjamin F. Wicks, recorder, eight dollars and seventy cents. The first marriage license was recorded September 4, 1855, the contracting parties being Samuel Kennedy and Mary Howorth. In March, 1856, the south tier of townships was set apart as a separate township, to be called Union township. This was the first subdivision made of the county, all the north part still being Milford township. David J. Fowler was the sheriff, and in November, 1856, it is recorded that he received, as salary, four dollars and fifty cents. This, however, included services as clerk of election. The temporary county judge was E. W. Fowler and, for his services



JOHN R. BASSETT
First County Judge

prior to the regular election, he was allowed four dollars and sixty cents. The minutes of the board are very limited and show that the volume of business was not much larger than the salaries. On March 12, 1857, Mr. Wicks was allowed twelve dollars and eighty-seven cents for his services, one year, as treasurer and recorder. In January, 1857, the board met to equalize assessments. This board was comprised of Judge Bassett, Morris McHenry, assessor, John B. Swain, sheriff, and Morris McHenry as surveyor. The first tax levy recorded was as follows: County, six mills; state, two; road, one; school, one-half; road poll tax, one dollar; county poll, fifty cents; "also one day's work, or one dollar, on the highway for all who are able-bodied men." In June, 1857, John Purdy took his place as clerk, succeeding Mr. Dobson. In March, 1858, a new subdivision was made, and the township of Denison was created. The order of the county judge reads as follows: "Jacob Whiting, you are hereby commanded to post up, in three of the most public places in the now being newly organized township, fifteen days previous to the 15th of April, 1858, boundaries of the new township, to be as follows: Commencing with the northwest corner of Union township, on the east side of Monona county, running due east along Union township line twenty-four miles, until it strikes the west side of Carroll county, thence north eight miles, thence due west, twenty-four miles, until it strikes Monona county, thence south to place of beginning. The above bound township to be set off for election and revenue purposes, to be known and called by the name of Denison township. March 15, 1858. John R. Bassett, county judge."

These boundaries were frequently changed and the townships were made irregular in shape. As early as 1860 we find that section 1, township 82, range 39, being what is now the northeast corner of Washington township, was taken from Union and added to Denison. Following down the pages of the minute book we come to many interesting items. In August, 1858, Morris McHenry was allowed eighteen dollars as secretary to the district clerk, and Thomas Dobson was allowed twenty-five dollars, the same being six months salary as our first county superintendent of schools. In March, 1859, H. C. Laub earned two dollars by chopping wood for county offices. At the election, in 1858, Mr. Bassett was re-elected judge, Mr. S. E. Dow was made treasurer, and Morris McHenry was continued as surveyor. The tax for this year was, state, three and one-half; county, five and one-half; school, one; road, two; road poll, one dollar.

The nature of the country is well shown by the bounties paid for wild animals, among which we note twenty-one wild cats; eleven prairie wolves; two timber wolves; one lynx, and one swift wolf, for each of which a bounty of one dollar and a half was paid. All through the records of the early years we find many bounties paid, both for wolves and wild cats.

As showing the value of lands, we find that, in 1859, prairie lands, in Milford township, owned by non-residents, were assessed at three dollars an acre; in Union township, at two dollars and a half per acre, and lands in Union township, owned by residents, were assessed at two dollars and a half. In 1859 the tax levy was, state, one and one-half; county, six; school, one; teacher's fund for the district township of Denison, two and one-half; contingent, one-half.

This is the first mention of taxation for Denison township purposes and is quite in contrast to the nearly one hundred mills which we will pay today.

The county seat was located at Denison by John R. Bassett, county judge, upon the request of the Providence Western Land Company, which donated the courthouse square and erected the first courthouse, which was a brick building, just half the size of the old courthouse as it stood for so many years. The first item of expense recorded in connection with the courthouse is a bill of four hundred dollars paid in 1859 to Wright & Bischer, "for finishing courthouse."

In 1858 S. J. Comfort, who was our first prosecuting, or county attorney, received twenty dollars as his year's salary. In 1859 the salaries paid were as follows: B. F. Dobson, one year's salary as sheriff, five dollars; Morris McHenry, deputy treasurer and recorder, twenty-five dollars; John R. Bassett, county judge, forty-six dollars and ten cents; S. E. Dow, treasurer, twenty-four dollars and ninety-one cents. On April 5, the governing powers held an important meeting, the county judge reporting receipts of fourteen dollars, eighty-five cents; the county clerk, four dollars, eighty-five cents; treasurer and recorder, eighteen dollars, a total of thirty-seven dollars, seventy cents, which was divided among the three as salaries. In July, 1859, the salaries were as follows: County judge, none; treasurer and recorder, twenty dollars; district clerk, one dollar and five cents. Probably on the strength of this salary, Uncle Morris was encouraged to branch out for himself, for, on December 24, 1859, the minute book for the county judge records a marriage license issued to Morris McHenry and Mary L. Comfort. The honeymoon was interrupted, however, for in January, 1866, Mr. McHenry was allowed one dollar and a half for surveying the courthouse square.

In 1860 we find that the school fund apportioned by the state, the same being based upon the number of children of school age, was divided as follows: Denison township, one hundred, ninety-three dollars, twenty cents; Milford, one hundred, fifty dollars, twenty-seven cents; and Union, eighty-five dollars, eighty-eight cents. In April of the same year Benjamin Dobson was awarded three hundred, sixteen dollars, sixty-seven cents, for a bridge, appropriated by the public, known as Dobson's bridge, "near the mill of said Dobson." This is the first county bridge to which reference is made. The tax levy for this year was, state, one and one-half; county, four; school, one.

During 1860 the county was treated to its first real criminal sensation. Joel Yeomen and Sidney Yeomen were accused of stealing from the stable of B. B. Bishop one gray mare and one bay mare, the property of H. C. Laub, of the value of one hundred and fifty dollars. They proceeded northward with said mares, avoiding all roads and public places as much as possible, and John Vore, the sheriff at that time, takes oath that, "I, with others, did track, pursue, and overtake said Joel and Sidney Yeomen, and found said mares in possession of said Joel and Sidney, who fled from us and left said mares and concealed themselves in bushes, or weeds, and that said Joel and Sidney were there and then arrested, on the 6th day of October, 1860, and that said Joel was brought before John R. Bassett, county judge, and that he plead guilty and was committed to jail." Among other items in this connection we find that Hartwell Jordan, James M. Butler, and Robert Bell were each allowed three dollars and a half



SELLING THE OLD COURTHOUSE—AUCTION SCENE



THE FIRST TRIAL IN CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, DENISON

as members of the sheriff's posse; that J. W. Denison was allowed five dollars for printing hand bills for the detection of Sidney Yeomen, who seems to have gotten away, even though arrested in "the bushes and weeds aforesaid;" that S. J. Comfort was allowed two dollars and a half for prosecuting Joel Yeomen, and finally that John Vore was allowed one hundred, thirteen dollars, ten cents, for taking Joel to Fort Madison. This is the first county record of a criminal proceeding.

In 1861 H. C. Laub was allowed twenty dollars salary as county superintendent, while H. H. Crowell, editor of the Boyer Valley Record, which led a stormy and precarious existence in Denison for about a year and a half, was allowed two dollars and a half for printing blanks; and eighteen dollars, twenty-five cents, for publishing the county proceedings. In this year Morris McHenry was allowed twenty-two dollars, fifty cents, as deputy treasurer for March, while S. J. Comfort received seven dollars and a half for his services as clerk during the same period.

The method of county government seems to have been changed at this time and we have the first record of a board of supervisors, this organization superseding the county judge. The first supervisors were Thomas Dobson, Daniel Howarth, and H. C. Laub, the latter of whom seems to have been greatly in demand for, in the same year, we find allowances made him for "paper, candles and broom" furnished the county, for services as county superintendent, for services as county supervisor, and for services as coroner in inquest held on the body of I. M. Allen, whose death, at the hands of H. H. Crowell, was the second great sensation of the county. Pasted on the blue page of this first minute book we find the first printed proceedings of the board of supervisors. This was evidently clipped from the old Boyer Valley Record, and is the only part of that paper which we have ever seen. The printed slips contain the proceedings of the board for January 7, 1861. These minutes contain the organization of the first board and are of sufficient interest to warrant their being quoted in full:

"January 7, 1861—Thomas Dobson, Milford; H. C. Laub, Denison; Daniel Howarth, Union. Newly elected supervisors respective townships qualified: Dobson, one year; Laub, one year; Howarth, two years. Howarth, chairman; S. J. Comfort, clerk.

The board adopted rules:

1st: It is the duty of the chairman to preside and to preserve order during the session of the board.

2nd: Board shall meet at 9:00 A. M. for transaction of business and shall remain in session until 4:00 P. M.

3d: All questions shall be decided by a majority, voting viva voce.

John Vore allowed twenty dollars as sheriff for preceding year. William S. Persons allowed fifty cents for hauling county books. Question presented by the clerk, "What seal is the clerk of the board of supervisors to use in sealing papers used in doing business as clerk for said board?" Board unanimously decided that they use the county seal.

Bids for cordwood for county, notice to be published in the Boyer Valley Record.

Clerk authorized to lease to Denison school district north room on the lower floor of the courthouse after the present lease expires, until November 1, 1861, at the rate of three dollars and a half per month, for time actually occupied for a school. Decided to allow Denison schools to occupy upper rooms of courthouse during the winter.

Sections 29 and 30, township 84, range 38, to be taken from Denison township and attached to Milford.

Wages of clerk and treasurer fixed at two dollars per day of six hours, actually and necessarily employed.

In October, 1861, H. C. Laub, as county superintendent, reports the persons of school age as follows: Union township, 58; Denison township, 58; Milford township, 52. In 1862 Daniel Howorth was again made chairman of the board, and in this session we find the first item which bears at all upon the war. It was in the disallowance of a claim of J. W. Denison for advertising notices to the able-bodied men for military purposes.

At the same session we find this peculiar order: "Clerk ordered to repair courthouse gate, keep same closed, locked up, all teams positively excluded from courthouse yard, and that the hoop-breakers be disposed of and steps provided in their place." We must confess that the "hoop-breakers" rather puzzled us, at first, until we remembered the round posts set together like nine pins, through which a man might conveniently squeeze but which must have been embarrassing to the ladies of the hoop-skirt age. This might be instanced as the first step toward woman's suffrage in the county, as, before that time, it would seem that the ladies must either have been excluded or forced to climb the fence.

About this time the county entered into a long series of agreements and disagreements and litigations concerning what were known as "swamp lands." In February, 1862, articles of agreement were proposed between Crawford county and the American Emigrant Company by its agent, H. C. Crawford, of Lake City, by which the county devoted unto said company "all unsold swamp and overflowed lands and all proceeds therefor, company taking said swamp and overflowed land and fund subject to all legal charges and claims, taking place of said county and assuming payment of the same. Said company is to convey to said county such parcels of said land as is needed for actual settlement from time to time, provided said company shall give satisfactory security, company to take said lands and funds and assume the payment of same in lands at not less than one dollar and a quarter per acre. Said company agrees to make and erect in any of the public improvements for which said lands may be devoted such improvements as the board may order, not exceeding two hundred dollars, within four years from January 1st, next, the company to bear all expense of reclaiming said land." This proposition was submitted to the voters at a special election held March 20, 1862, and was carried, the total vote being 26; for the proposition, 17; against, 9. In June of the same year James C. Savery, of Des Moines, was appointed to settle with the general government for swamp lands within the county and certain defects in the contract with the American Emigrant Company were cured.

In June, 1862, S. M. Howe was sheriff, E. G. Stockbridge, bailiff, and the members of the board were Daniel Howorth, Thomas Dobson, and I. B. Good-

rich, who succeeded Mr. Laub. At this June session the first pair of handcuffs for the use of the sheriff was ordered.

During the year 1862, Crawford county had its most serious Indian scare. The roving bands of Sioux to the north and west were emboldened by the fact that the government was at war with the south, and that the regular soldiers had been withdrawn from many of the frontier forts. Reports of their raids and massacres were doubtless greatly exaggerated, but they were real enough in many places, and numerous settlers in exposed localities lost their lives. Rumors of these depredations reached Crawford county and greatly alarmed the settlers. As early as January, 1862, we find that B. F. Dobson, John R. Bassett and Jesse Mason were each allowed two dollars for their services as scouts. In September, 1862, we find the following: "A petition having been presented for appointment of scouts to watch for Indian signs and to give notice to the clerk and settlers of their approach to the settlement, whereupon James M. Butler, Sidney R. Rudd, Franklin Prentice, August Kent, J. B. Huckstep, Solomon W. Slater, W. Williams, and Hartwell Jourdan were appointed said scouts and were severally sworn to the faithful performance of their duties as scouts and to render a correct account of the time thus employed, and that each scout be allowed two dollars per day. Resolved, that the scouts remain on or near the station agreed upon by themselves during each night they are on duty, and we earnestly request citizens to cooperate with them and relieve them as much as possible by keeping a good lookout about their own premises. Said scouts are to be on duty ten hours each day, or during the day and night. I. B. Goodrich and Thomas Dobson are empowered to fill all vacancies and to disband or dismiss them when in their judgment it is no longer necessary to keep them employed, or to relieve them, or any of them, a day or two at a time from duty. In case the county obtains arms and ammunition from the state the district clerk will be authorized to receive them and let them out to responsible men on their giving a note or bond to the county for safe keeping when called for, the company to be styled 'Home Guards' and the scouts to be first supplied."

In compliance with this order Mr. J. W. Denison was sent to Des Moines to present the petition to the legislature and to obtain arms from the governor. This mission was successful and forty Enfield rifles, with ammunition, were secured. These arms were distributed and among those who received payment as scouts we find the names of J. A. Strite, Charles Wilson, John Appleman, E. McKim, A. C. D. Kent, A. R. Kuykendal, I. Goodrich, S. R. Rudd, F. Prentice, W. W. Williams, William Goodrich, H. B. Jourdan, John Rounds, Henry Winans, James M. Butler, John D. Huckstep, and S. W. Slater. By October the scare seems to have partially subsided, for it was then ordered that no more scouts would be employed until the further order of the board. In March, 1863, however, we find the following orders:

"The board to take possession of arms now in possession of John Purdy, I. B. Goodrich, James M. Butler, and Andrew D. Molony; clerk, authorized to give state a county bond therefor in lieu of individual bond. Chauncey Goodrich ordered to clean guns. Ordered that guns in possession of county be distributed to supervisors of each township as agents to distribute them in proportion to the need or apprehended danger of the most exposed places. Only deal

out cartridges in quantities of five or six rounds for practice and after that only when the aspect of affairs is such that attack may be expected, and then, ammunition shall be dealt out judiciously and in such quantities as will meet the exigencies of the case."

This was the last mention of the Indian scare, save that considerable difficulty was experienced in getting the rifles back and having them properly cleaned and repaired and returned to the state.

On October 7, 1862, we find the first mention of our old friend, A. D. Molony, in connection with county government. It seems that he served in a humble capacity, at first, for it was his task to remove the "hoop-breakers" and build the steps, for which he received the sum of seven dollars and thirty-seven cents.

The tax levy for 1862 shows a promising increase. It was as follows: State, two mills; county, four; poll, fifty cents; bridge, one mill; school, one; Milford school, one and a quarter; incidental, one and a quarter; teacher's, one; Denison contingent, two; schoolhouse, two and a half; Union schoolhouse, three; extraordinary county tax on account of the appointment of Indian scouts, two mills.

The canvass of the vote in October, 1862, showed that John Purdy was elected district clerk by a vote of sixty-five, over S. J. Comfort, who received twenty-four votes; for coroner, Reuben Blake was elected apparently without opposition by the handsome vote of five. In January, 1863, it was ordered that "the postoffice may be kept in the courthouse in such place that it would not conflict with the county officer's business."

David Young was elected supervisor in 1862, taking his seat the following January. The board was then composed of Thomas Dobson, chairman; E. B. Goodrich; and David Young. The county valuation at this time was fixed as follows: Improved land, forty acres with building, five dollars per acre; all other improved land, two dollars an acre; timber land, first class, seven dollars, fifty cents; second class, five dollars; forty acres with a few acres of timber, two dollars, fifty cents; prairie land, two dollars, fifty cents; horses, first class, fifty dollars; second class, thirty; oxen, first class, forty dollars; second class, thirty; cows, first class, eight dollars; second class, five; hogs, seventy-five cents; sheep, one dollar and a quarter; wagons, first class, fifty dollars; second class, twenty-five dollars; carriages, first class, seventy-five dollars; second class, twenty-five dollars.

J. D. Seagraves had been elected to succeed H. C. Laub as superintendent, and in June, 1863, Junius Brown was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Seagraves' absence.

In June, 1863, we hear another echo of the war for the board met to hear complaints of all persons claiming exemption from military duty. At this session a militia roll was declared and the following were found to be exempt: Mortimer A. Howe; George S. Johnson; Elihu Dobson; Henry S. Winans; Noah V. Johnson; S. P. Gardner; J. S. Hall, exempted as he was in the United States army; R. D. Butterworth, for removing from county; Robert and James Bell; and Daniel Howorth.



DREDGING SCENE ON BOYER DITCH



DREDGING ON BOYER DITCH



As an instance of the fact that the board was determined to encourage home industry we find that a prize of five dollars was offered for the best plans and specifications of a bridge span, fifty feet, and the board adds, "The mechanics of Crawford county are respectfully invited to pitch in." This contest was won by Samuel Young.

The population and political complexion of the county at this time is shown by the canvass of the vote of the election held October 19, 1863. It was as follows: For governor, James M. Stone, republican, fifty; James M. Tuttle, democrat, thirty-five; lieutenant-governor, E. W. Eastman, republican, fifty-five; John F. Duncan, democrat, twenty-nine; senator, forty-third district, George W. Bassett, republican, fifty-three; C. E. Whiting, democrat, thirty-three; representative, sixty-second district, Addison Oliver, republican, fifty-one; S. E. Dow, democrat, thirty-five. It will thus be seen that the highest total vote for any office was eighty-six, which, with the absence of the usual percentage from the polls, would mean that there were about one hundred voters in the county. In connection with this election we find the interesting note that the county canvass was adjourned, until the army vote could be received from the state canvassers. The final results after the army vote was canvassed are not given in the minute book.

On December 25, 1863, we find the first of numerous actions of the board relative to the war. At this time Daniel Howorth again became a member of the board by appointment from Union township. At this special session the following order was passed: "That the county hereby agrees to pay a bounty of three hundred dollars to all volunteers who shall enlist and be sworn into the United States service under the last call of the president for three hundred thousand men to fill up the old regiments now in the field, said money to be paid as follows, namely: One hundred dollars when the said volunteer shall have been sworn into the United States service, and two county warrants, drawing interest at ten per cent per annum, each for the sum of one hundred dollars, one of which shall be payable January 1, 1865, and the other January 1, 1866. Ordered that the families of those persons who volunteer in Crawford county to serve their country in suppressing the present rebellion, be sent to their friends at the expense of the county. Ordered that H. C. Laub be agent to pay volunteers under instruction of board, giving bond in the sum of five thousand dollars." The board at this session also made arrangements to go to Union township to obtain recruits.

On December 29 it was further ordered that the sum of two dollars per month should be paid for the use of families of volunteers where there are two in the family, and one dollar per head for each additional child. On December 30th the bounty was raised from three hundred dollars to three hundred and fifty dollars. At this time S. M. Howe was allowed seventy dollars, paid for expenses of Henry Franks, wife and child, he having enlisted in the United States service for Crawford county, to Marshalltown, thence by railroad to Clyde, Illinois. This would indicate that Marshalltown was the nearest railroad point.

It seems also that there must have been some misunderstanding about the bounties, for Mr. Laub is especially ordered by the board to pay no bounty until

fully satisfied that the volunteer has gone through the last examination and been actually accepted into the United States service. The members of the board were constituted as agents to pay the families of volunteers the monthly appropriation and it was further agreed that the county would forward baggage to the amount of two hundred pounds, if desired, with families of volunteers. At this time it would appear that the courthouse was too large rather than too small, for the north room was rented to Mrs. S. P. Gardner for three months, at three dollars per month.

In 1864 the board was composed of Daniel Howorth, Chauncey Goodrich and Thomas Dobson. Morris McHenry was treasurer, recorder and county surveyor. S. E. Dow was clerk of Union township; John R. Bassett was county judge and clerk of Denison township; and Thomas Dobson was the clerk of Milford township. S. M. Howe was sheriff and was allowed twenty dollars as his salary for 1863. Junius Brown was deputy clerk. We find no record in the minutes, but it is a fact, that seven men responded to the enlistment call. The nearest recruiting office was at Fort Dodge and they were taken overland to that point during some of the bitterest days of that winter. The story of this enlistment will be found in the chapter devoted to war history, but an echo of it is found in the proceedings of the board when, in April, 1864, James H. Foster was allowed sixteen dollars and fifty cents for eleven days service, going to Fort Dodge and sixty cents for a bill paid at Bond's Hotel, in Denison. Further items were also allowed—H. C. Laub, expense transporting volunteers to Fort Dodge, one hundred, sixteen dollars, thirty-five cents; for services raising ammunition to Fort Dodge, twenty-three dollars, fifty cents. Chauncey Goodrich was also allowed twenty-four dollars and fifty cents for endeavoring to raise volunteers.

We have been patting ourselves on the back concerning our good roads movement and the placarding of the transcontinental line, but "there is nothing new under the sun," as is evidenced by the fact that in April, 1864, our supervisors ordered that ten dollars be appropriated for the purpose of printing posters to be put on the road between Decatur, on the Missouri river, and Chicago, Illinois, "providing the counties east and west of us to the railroad, cooperate, for the purpose of inducing emigration to this part of the country." It was in 1864, also, that Chauncey Goodrich was employed to procure "nice, thrifty, young maple trees in sufficient quantities to set out the courthouse yard in trees to be planted fifteen feet apart at right angles." Many of us have enjoyed the grateful shade of those same maple trees and remember with regret when they bit the dust in advance of the building of the new courthouse. It was at this time also that the "finishing up" of the new courthouse was ordered.

April 25, 1864, is a memorable date in Crawford county's history, for on that day A. D. Molony first became officially connected with our county government. He was appointed as clerk of the board of supervisors to fill the unexpired term of John Purdy, deceased. This was the beginning of an official career which has seldom been surpassed in point of continuous service by any officer in any county of the state. Mr. Molony owed his popularity to his kindness of heart, his genuine sympathy with the poor and the oppressed, his broad catholicity of spirit, and his unfailing good humor and kindness. He

presents one of the most lovable characters in our county history. In office he showed good judgment and the strictest integrity. It was well for the county that he had these characteristics for, during many years, his was the predominant influence in our entire county government. In fact for many years the board of supervisors acted more as clerks to record the will of Andy Malony than he acted as clerk to record the will of the board.

At this time the old Boyer Valley Record was defunct and there was no newspaper published in the county, thus we find the sale of school lands advertised in the "Union," a paper published at Magnolia, in Harrison county. In the proceedings of January 1, 1864, we find that the bounties had been paid to the following Union soldiers: Simeon Strong, James H. Foster, Sterling P. Gardner, Franklin Prentice, A. J. Bond, J. H. Munson, Henry Frank, and Jacob Prentice. During this same year the board passed the following war order:

"Having in view the good of our common country, and to encourage enlistment under the present call of the president for five hundred thousand men, ordered that it would be just under the present call to offer the same bounty for enlistment as was offered last winter, and the honorable board of supervisors would respectfully solicit their constituents to respond cheerfully to the call of their country. They do, therefore, offer a bounty of three hundred and fifty dollars to all volunteers and further order that the same monthly stipend shall be paid to those who leave families.

For this year the tax levy was, state, two mills; county, four; military and relief fund, two; bridge, one; school, one.

Passing to the year 1865 we find that still more strenuous efforts were found necessary to secure enough men to fill the quota from Crawford county. David McWilliams was appointed military surgeon and a total of two thousand, three hundred dollars in bounties was paid to William Goodrich, Uriah Gable, William Spence, H. C. Laub, S. E. Dow, and John Kuykendal, all of whom were drafted, and the last four of whom, we understand, sent substitutes. In March, 1865, twenty dollars and thirty-five cents each was allowed to Thomas Alexander, Ward Goodrich and Michael Molony, as expenses to Waterloo, where they went to volunteer. In the same month it was ordered that a bounty of one hundred and twenty dollars be allowed all persons drafted into the service, to be paid in monthly installments of ten dollars to the families, with the somewhat ambiguous addition that "All single will receive the same at the expiration of their time of service."

The board this year, 1865, was composed of Thomas Dobson, representing Milford township; Chauncey Goodrich, Denison; and James M. Butler, Union. Mr. Dobson was chairman of the board. A canvass of the vote shows that A. D. Molony was elected clerk, Morris McHenry, recorder, J. S. Comstock, coroner.

At this time the valuation of land in the county had slightly increased and the board fixed the valuation as follows: Forty acres with buildings, five dollars per acre; other improved lands, three dollars per acre; timber lands, first class, ten dollars; second class, seven dollars, fifty cents; forty acres prairie,

with fifteen acres timber, five dollars; forty acres prairie with less than fifteen acres timber, three dollars; raw prairie, two dollars.

School lands in what was known as Buck Grove were advertised for sale on March 4, 1865, the advertisement being placed with the "Bugle," published at Council Bluffs.

The expenses of the war had been such that the county found itself in straights for money, and Morris McHenry, county treasurer, was directed to negotiate a loan of seven or eight thousand dollars, on the best terms he could, at a rate of interest not exceeding ten per cent annually.

In spite of this condition of the treasury, the necessity for soldiers continued and the board found it necessary to pass the following: That three hundred and fifty dollars be paid to all persons who have been drafted from this county and have been mustered into the United States Military service, or who have furnished substitutes and said substitutes have been mustered into service, and that the sum of eight hundred dollars be paid by Crawford county to all persons who may volunteer for one year for Crawford county, and that H. C. Laub is appointed agent to recruit said volunteers, he not to be permitted to pay any volunteer until he is actually mustered into service, and not to pay any bounty for any number of volunteers unless he gets sufficient to fill the roll of said county under the present call, and that he be paid three dollars and a half per day for all time actually spent in procuring said volunteers." In connection with this we have had brought to our attention the following receipt:

Treasurer's Office, Crawford County,
Denison, Iowa, Jan. 14, 1865.

\$800.00

Received of A. D. Molony, Clerk of Crawford County, Iowa, eight hundred dollars to be held subject to the order of Alfred B. Conyne in case he is accepted as a volunteer in the United States Military Service for Crawford County, Iowa, under the last call of the President for 300,000 men, but in case he is rejected said sum shall be returned to A. D. Molony.

MORRIS McHENRY, Treas.

Revenue
Stamp.

Crawford County, Iowa.

Mr. Coyne made the journey to the recruiting office at Waterloo, but for some reason was not accepted, and we believe this bounty was never paid. Evidences of further trouble in connection with payments to volunteers is shown by an order that the board shall visit and examine into the condition of the families of volunteers and drafted men under their charge, and distribute the bounty "in such manner as not to exhaust the bounty so given to those families."

There are at this session of the board two notations which we believe are worthy of preservation, as they fittingly commemorate the deeds of two of the great men of this county, and as they also indicate the fact that all was not unanimous, even in this county, in support of war measures. This is a part of our history in which it is best not to delve too deeply, but the record of the board of supervisors should stand. The following are the records to which reference is made:



GROUP OF COUNTY OFFICERS IN COURT ROOM

"Claim of James M. Butler for able services rendered to the county in meeting and thwarting the opposition made by a portion of the citizens to get out an injunction to stultify the action of the board of supervisors with regard to the passage of an order offering a bounty for the procurement of volunteers in the army, ten dollars.

"Resolved by the board of supervisors in behalf of the citizens of said county, we hereby tender to H. C. Laub, Esq., agent of the order to procure volunteers on the last call of the president for fifty thousand men, the thanks of the citizens for his patriotic services in attending promptly to the business entrusted to his care." This is the last echo of the war, for soon after peace was declared, but it shows that the majority of our people were brave and patriotic, and that poor as we were, struggling as we were to secure a foothold in a new, raw land, we were yet willing and able to devote large sums to the suppression of the rebellion.

It was in 1865 that we find the first mention of the "Herd Law." It must be understood that at this time by far the major part of the county was unfenced. There were miles of prairie land untouched and unoccupied. Here and there a settler had broken the sod and planted his wheat and corn. There was a continual struggle, therefore, between those whose improved land was under fence and who wished their live stock to run at large over the rich pasture afforded by the unoccupied lands, and those whose fields were still unfenced and whose growing crops were thus subjected to the ravages of cattle and hogs and sheep. It may seem absurd to us now in this settled community, but it was a burning question at that time. The local papers contained column upon column of superheated communications on the subject, and it was presented to the people and variously decided at a number of elections held between 1865 and 1880. The first of these special elections was ordered by the board in January, 1865, upon the petition of Dobson and twenty-six others, asking that a vote be taken for the purpose of rescinding the law prohibiting sheep and swine running at large.

Prairie fires were also a great menace and the board ordered precautionary notices to be posted in three of the most public places in each township, and further asked the cooperation of the citizens of Denison in the protection of the shrubbery around and near the courthouse.

During 1865 S. M. Howe resigned as sheriff, Sterling P. Gardner being appointed, and Uncle Chauncey Goodrich resigned as a member of the board, his place being filled by Tracy Chapman. Mr. Chapman held office but a few months, however, resigning during the same year.

In 1864 we find the first mention of the agricultural society, the clerk being instructed to advertise a bridge contract on the last day of September, "the first day of the agricultural fair," while again in 1866 we find an appropriation of one hundred and twenty-five dollars to the agricultural society for fair grounds. Prior to this time the county fair had been held on the streets of Denison around and about the courthouse square.

The year 1865 was also memorable for two important events in our county's history. In September, 1865, a petition was received, signed by J. T. Hammond, W. W. Galland and others, asking that townships 82, 83, 84 and 85, of Monona county, be attached to Crawford county. The board ordered as fol-

lows: "The board of supervisors of Crawford county, being satisfied that the law has been complied with, it is hereby ordered that at the general election to be held the second Tuesday in October, 1865, there shall be a vote taken on attaching or not attaching the territory asked for in said petition." At this election there were seventy-one votes for changing the county boundary, and twenty-seven against, while the sharpness of the issue as to the herd law is evidenced by the fact that there were forty-three votes against sheep and hogs running at large and forty-two votes for sheep and hogs running at large, a majority of one.

The vote as to change of boundary prevailed also in Monona county, and later we shall find that the provisions of the law were complied with and that Soldier, Charter Oak, Willow and Boyer townships were annexed to this county under the name of Boyer township. The inside history of this matter seems to be that the county seat of Monona county was located at Onawa, near the river, at the extreme west end of the county. Monona was one of the largest counties in the state. The east portion, along the Maple river, was filling rapidly with settlers and the people of Onawa became fearful that as the population increased they would lose control and the county seat would be moved. It was for this reason that they desired that the boundaries should be reduced. Whatever their motives, they were successful and the people of this county were willing enough to add these four rich townships to their domain, and thus Crawford became one of the largest counties of the state at the expense of its western neighbor. Onawa still retains the county seat.

It was in the year 1865, also, that the telegraph line, the forerunner of the railroad, made its first appearance in Crawford county. H. C. Laub had the contract for building the line from Boone to Council Bluffs, and many of our citizens, among whom was Mr. James Rollins, one of the pioneers of East Boyer township, earned their first money in this county hauling poles and helping with the erection of this line. The board of supervisors did all they could to encourage the coming of this great invention to the county, and we find that appropriation was made to defray the expenses necessary to open the "railroad telegraph road" through Crawford county. Morris McHenry was our first telegraph operator and the board ordered that the telegraph company be allowed to place its instruments in the office of Morris McHenry, in the northeast corner of the courthouse, for the term of one year from November 1, 1865.

In 1866 the board of supervisors was enlarged by the addition of one member, representing Boyer township, which was the name of the added section of the county. The name of this first supervisor from the west end was H. B. Ernst. The other members of the board were James Butler, Union; I. B. Goodrich, Denison; B. F. Wicks, Milford.

Up to 1866, and indeed for several years later, until the erection of McHenry Hall, the courthouse was the only sizable place for public gatherings of any kind. The upper floor was unfinished, but even in this state it was a common meeting place for lectures, church services, Sunday school, and social gatherings. Certain of the ungodly wished also to use it for dancing, and this was another burning question which vexed our fathers. Prior to 1866 dancing had been prohibited in the courthouse, but the board of that year was more liberal

in its view and rescinded the anti-dancing order, ordering the clerk to allow all gatherings of citizens of this county to be held in the courthouse, making each person holding said meetings responsible for damages. Afterward we find that this order was rescinded and re-rescinded, and that it was only with the erection of McHenry Hall that it was settled as regards the courthouse, and then it was but handed down to the enterprising bank builders.

1866 heralded the close of the war and the advance of the railroad. The railroad company wished various favors from the community, and on January 2d we find that the board adjourned in order that citizens could have an opportunity of hearing the claims and merits of the Northwestern railway discussed, whereas at present we are sometimes busy in discussing the claims and demerits of the same institution. As a result of these meetings a special election was ordered in March, at which the question of giving what were known as the swamp lands of the county to the Cedar Rapids and Missouri River Railroad Company was submitted, provided that the railroad line reached the town of Denison or within five miles of the town within three years. Forty-one votes were cast for the appropriation and three votes against it.

In September of the same year the county was again subdivided, and Jackson township was created. This township was four miles north and south and extended twenty-four miles east and west from the Carroll county line to the east line of what is now known as Soldier township. The first election was ordered to be held at the home of Alexander Trinkle, for the election of clerk, assessor, justices, constables, road supervisor and county supervisor.

The resignation of S. E. Dow, who succeeded John R. Bassett as county judge, was tendered, to take effect the 1st of January, 1867, and later S. P. Gardner resigned as sheriff, evidently not having had time to spend his salary, which amounted to sixty-two dollars and a half for the year 1866. P. D. Wright, of Denison, was appointed in his place.

The new board met in January, 1867. It was composed of S. E. Dow, Union township, chairman; I. B. Goodrich, Denison; B. F. Wicks, Milford; Cornelius Dunham, Boyer; and Thaddeus Gray, the first supervisor from Jackson. At this session we note that the proceedings were ordered printed "in the proposed paper to be published in Denison provided it commences its issue in season." The "proposed paper" was the Denison Review, which was established in that year.

On December 11, 1866, the county was treated to a genuine sensation in the breaking open and robbing of the county safe. The total sum secured was but ninety-one dollars, and it was agreed that the treasurer and subtreasurer had used all possible means to secure the funds and were clear from liability or blame. The perpetrators of this outrage were never discovered but the county learned a valuable lesson, and thereafter the records were insured and the treasurer was ordered to deposit the county funds with Chicago bankers. It was in this year also that the recorder was given a separate office, the northwest corner of the courthouse being fitted up for his use.

The spring of 1867 was notable for many freshets, during which the majority of the few county bridges were washed away. The fair ground bridge over the West Boyer was only saved by strenuous efforts and we find that Hef-

felfinger & Company were allowed three dollars for use of chain on West Boyer bridge during high water.

That the board was progressive and in favor of advertising is shown by the fact that in September, 1867, a warrant for fifty dollars was ordered drawn in favor of James R. Cary for a thousand copies of a paper, the title of which is "Iowa in 1867," provided said Cary appropriates at least two columns to this county. In October of this year a contract was let to finish the second story of the courthouse and J. D. Miracle was appointed attorney of the board, succeeding James M. Butler.

January, 1868, saw the session of a new board, composed of Esau McKim, Milford; Cornelius Dunham, Boyer; Tracy Chapman, Denison; S. E. Dow, Union; and Thaddeus Gray, Jackson. Among the acts of this board was the making of the Denison Review, published by Money & Stephens, the official paper; the letting of a contract for lathing and plastering the second story of the courthouse to A. F. Bond for the sum of fifty-five dollars; the appointment of D. L. Gillette as deputy sheriff, and later as sheriff, to fill the vacancy created by the death of Ben Clough, who was elected the year before. This board also resubmitted the vexed herd law question, which was carried by a vote of 169 to 9; and appointed E. D. Partridge court bailiff to serve under J. D. Miracle, who had been elected county judge. In November, 1868, we find that a claim of Dr. William Iseminger was allowed, this being the first official mention of that honored and respected pioneer physician who still blesses this community with his presence.

In 1869 the only change in the board of supervisors was in the election of S. E. Wright, supervisor from Boyer township, to succeed Cornelius Dunham, and the election of S. J. Comfort, Union township, to succeed S. E. Dow. J. D. Miracle was elected clerk of the board in 1868, A. D. Malony retiring upon his election as clerk of the district court. He was given a "small room in the southeast corner of the courthouse." In June of 1869 S. J. Comfort and Thaddeus Gray resigned from the board and Daniel Howorth, of Union, and Alexander Trinkle, of Jackson, qualified.

It was at this same session that the new township of Charter Oak was created. This new township was taken from Boyer township and comprised what is now Soldier and Charter Oak. In September of the same year East Boyer was also organized, comprising what are now the townships of East Boyer and Hayes and the south tier of sections of West Side. But the petition of Michael Riddle and others for the establishment of Washington township was rejected. David McWilliams was the first clerk of East Boyer and Martin Barrett the first clerk of Charter Oak.

In September of this year we find a list of the county roads which had been finally established up to that time. These may be of interest as showing the main arteries of travel and lines of settlement. The roads are described as follows: "High street road from Carroll county line to Shelby county line; Mason's Grove and East Boyer road, by Greek and McWilliams; Denison and Sioux road by McHenry's Grove; Deloit and Carroll county road by Vail; Deloit and Sioux City road, via Big Creek; Howorth and Vore road; Talcott and Howorth schoolhouse road; Deloit and West Side road, via section lines

and railroad; Denison and Harlan road by Coon Grove; State road, Panora to Sergeant's Bluffs, by Dunham's and Mason's Groves; West Side, Paradise road; Vore and Sam Young road; State road, Denison to Dunham's Grove; Rocky Run road; King creek road; Vail north; Four-Mile Grove road, by Huckstep's; Denison to Prentice bridge; Jackson township to Mrs. Dunham's, west side of Boyer road; Denison to county line via Dow's and Bee Tree Grove; Deloit and county line road, also called Ida Grove road."

Samuel Blankenship was sheriff during this period, his salary in full for 1869 being seventy-five dollars.

The board of supervisors started the new decade of 1870 with the following members: Daniel Howorth, Union; Michael Riddle, Denison; Samuel Wright, Boyer; Clark Winans, Milford; Tracy Chapman, East Boyer; John M. Church, Jackson; W. T. Spillman, Charter Oak. Bonds were approved for the following newly elected officers; A. D. Molony, auditor; S. P. Blankenship, sheriff; N. J. Wheeler, county superintendent; Morris McHenry, treasurer and surveyor. The bond of Charles Bullock as clerk of Denison was also approved. By this time the business of the county had attained such magnitude that certain of the officers were allowed assistance. William Iseminger was deputy auditor in November and December, 1869; S. J. Comfort was assistant treasurer in 1869 and assistant auditor in 1870; and W. A. McHenry assistant treasurer after February, 1870.

In June, 1869, another new township was created. This was known as West Side township. It contained parts of what are now Jackson, Stockholm, Milford and West Side. It is in this year that we find the first mention of Mr. L. Cornwell, who was selected to view a road. Litigation was also commenced by this board to enforce the payment of taxes upon the Cedar Rapids & Missouri River Railroad Company, and also upon the American Emigrant Land Company, which was said to own over eleven thousand acres in Crawford county. William T. Spillman removed from the county and Horace W. Bristol was appointed as the second supervisor from Charter Oak township. This board also, among its other acts, rejected a petition of Denison citizens for the erection of a jail; a petition asking for two hundred dollars to fit up the fair grounds, and to build a bridge across the Main Boyer opposite the new town of Dowville. The board resubmitted the herd law and finally granted the petition of Michael Riddle and others for the establishment of Washington township. This was the ninth township created and embraced the east half of the present Washington township, together with the whole of Nishnabotny and Iowa townships.

The question of the increase of the board of supervisors to seven members was submitted at the September election. This was defeated and the board was reduced to three members, who took office in October, 1870. They were C. H. De Wolf, Daniel Howorth and Clark Winans. John M. Church was county auditor in 1870, but his removal from the state left a vacancy, which was filled by appointment of Alexander Trinkle, and this year we find the first mention of the so-called "Swede settlement," the board allowing a bill for expense in surveying "the Swede settlement and Deloit road." The following June saw the establishment of a road in the "German settlement."

The annual apportionment we give to show the increase of land values. It was as follows: Timber land, first class, per acre, ten dollars; second class, eight dollars; third class, six dollars; prairie land, forty acres improved, with buildings, fifteen dollars; second class, ten dollars; third class, six dollars; prairie land, unimproved, from four to ten dollars; vacant town lots, twenty dollars to two hundred dollars.

In January, 1871, Morris McHenry resigned as surveyor and J. D. Miracle was appointed in his place. The question of dancing in the courtroom again comes to the surface and all meetings save "religious, preaching and political" were excluded. Appropriation was also made by this board for the erection on the fair grounds of that magnificent structure, so well known to all old timers as the Floral Hall. We can see it yet, weather stained and black, a veritable barn, but dignified and ennobled by its title. We can see the lines of pumpkins and squash, the big red beets, the mammoth turnips, the patchwork quilts and tidies hung upon the wall, the Mason jars filled with tempting preserves, and the frosted cakes, with that tempting, agonizing "judge's slice" cut out. We do not know why it was called a "floral hall," for in our recollection we can remember seeing no flowers there at any time, save some wax flowers under a frame.

In 1871 Washington township was enlarged by the addition of what is now the west half of that township and a new township, almost the first one to be confined to the regulation government township of six miles square, was created and named Paradise. The board of 1872 was the same as that of the year preceding, with Daniel Howorth as chairman. Mr. Howorth was taken seriously ill in the spring of this year and we can but feel a touch of kindness when we read that the board adjourned "in order to visit the sick, their honored chairman, Daniel Howorth." We are glad that we can record that Mr. Howorth recovered from this sickness and was soon able to again sit with the board.

June, 1872, witnessed the final completion of the township organization of this county. It was then that the townships were reduced to their present boundaries. The new townships thus created were Stockholm; Otter Creek; Morgan, which was attached to Otter Creek for judicial and financial purposes; Soldier; Hanover, which was attached to Goodrich; Goodrich; Hayes; Willow, which was attached to Boyer; Nishnabotny and Iowa, both of which were attached to Washington. The first election held in Goodrich township was at the Gardner schoolhouse; in Otter Creek at the Brogden schoolhouse; in Stockholm at the Hart Jordan schoolhouse; in Hayes at the Paul Lightner schoolhouse; and in Soldier at Barrett's schoolhouse. At this election the question of increasing the board to five members was submitted. John Poitevin is first mentioned in this year, being appointed deputy county auditor. There were at this time thirty-one and a half miles of railroad in the county, this being the length of the Northwestern main line.

The board organized January 6, 1873, with Daniel Howorth, Union, Clark Winans, Milford, and L. Cornwell of Denison as the members. Hanover township was detached from Goodrich and attached to Denison. About this time the county received an appropriation from the general government on account

of what was known as the swamp lands. Prior to this time some arrangement had been entered into with Mr. J. W. Denison by which he was to represent this county in the collection of this claim, and to receive one-half the sum collected as his commission. This agreement was repudiated by the county and L. Cornwell was appointed agent to proceed to Des Moines and receive the indemnity fund belonging to the county. Later Mr. Denison carried the matter into court, the agreement was held binding, and he received the full amount of his claim.

In September, 1873, Willow, Iowa and Nishnabotny townships were detached and created as independent townships. Their first elections were held, in Willow at the Underhill schoolhouse; in Iowa at the Hilsabeck schoolhouse; in Nishnabotny at the John Theobald schoolhouse. Up to 1873 the election canvass seemed to have been carelessly recorded, but in this year the returns are given. L. Cornwell was elected treasurer by fifty-three majority; A. D. Molony auditor by two hundred and fifty-three majority; A. C. Smith, sheriff, by twenty-six majority; J. A. Stanton, county superintendent, two hundred and four majority; Morris McHenry, surveyor, three hundred and eighty-five majority; William Iseminger, coroner, one hundred and sixty-four majority. The supervisors and their majorities were as follows: George Rae, one hundred and twenty; Robert Hope, fifty-six; Robert Bell, five.

It was in 1873 that the commencement was made for the enlargement of the courthouse to double its former size, and on December 2d the bid of J. L. McClellan for four thousand, eight hundred ninety-two dollars and seventy cents was accepted.

The school census of 1873 shows the school population to have been as follows: Boyer, 92; Washington, 171; Denison, 256; Union, 132; Milford, 209; East Boyer, 94; Goodrich, 80; Jackson, 61; Charter Oak, 32; Otter Creek, 58; Paradise, 67; Hayes, 60; West Side, 107; Soldier, 32; Stockholm 109. It will be noted that Denison was the most populous township, with Charter Oak and Soldier tying for last place. It was in this year also that Hon. Daniel Howorth retired from the board of supervisors after many years of splendid and unselfish service for the county. The board justly remembered him with a formal expression of its thanks.

The new board sitting in 1874, had been increased to five members. They were: C. Winans, George Rae, Robert Bell, Robert Hope and Michael Riddle, with Mr. Winans as chairman. An echo of the well known circus riot, which stirred Denison to its depths, is found this year in the allowance of the following bill: "Clothing for circus man, \$18.85; passenger ticket, \$28.95; pocket money, \$5.00." It was indeed a generous county.

In 1874 the voters were given another opportunity to decide the herd law question. This time the proposition was submitted in two forms: First, shall stock be restricted from running at large; second, shall stock be restricted from running at large between the hours of sunset and sunrise. The voters decided in favor of the night law by two hundred and twenty-five majority.

In 1875 James Jones of Otter Creek and Tracy Chapman of East Boyer, were the new members of the board, succeeding Clark Winans and Michael Riddle. Robert Hope was chairman. Among the bonds approved were those

of John B. Poitevin, county recorder; W. S. Wilson, clerk of courts; and N. F. Smith, superintendent. In this year Morgan and Hanover townships were made independent. The first election in Morgan was held in the dwelling house of Claus Mundt, while in Hanover it was ordered that election be held in Bogleman's schoolhouse, if ready; if not, at his dwelling. 1875 was another year of freshets and high water and the county bridge fund was more than bankrupted. The board held a special session to consider repairing bridges taken out by high water, and eleven bridges were ordered and six referred to committee. The bridge tax was increased to three mills and it was further ordered, rather ambiguously let us confess, that all of block No. 168, Denison, excepting lot 1, be exempted from taxation for 1874, saying that "it had been washed away by high water." Whether it was block 168, or lot 1, or the year 1874, which was flooded out of existence, we must leave it to our reader to puzzle out for himself. The expense created by these great freshets will be better realized on reading the following order of the board, passed in September, 1875: "Whereas, the unprecedented freshets of the present season have swept away and disabled a very large proportion of the bridges in the county, thereby depreciating the bridge warrants of the county, therefore be it ordered by the board of supervisors that the following question be submitted to a vote of the people at the October, 1875, election, as follows: Shall the tax levy upon the assessed value of the taxable property in the county for making and repairing bridges be increased this present year from three to six mills on the dollar?"

The board of supervisors for 1876 consisted of the following members: Robert Hope, chairman; Robert Bell; J. D. Jones; Levy Bishop; and Cornelius C. Green. L. Cornwell was treasurer and A. D. Molony auditor; N. F. Smith, superintendent; William Iseminger, coroner; A. C. Smith, sheriff; with W. J. McAhren and J. G. Smith deputies; G. W. Heston, surveyor; and Josiah McHenry is noted as the first mayor of Vail. The herd law had been submitted at the October election, 1875, but for some reason the result was not properly entered and advertised. The new board refused to legalize and to quote from their minutes: "We leave the matter at the mercy of the people." In June the law was ordered submitted and also the question of a county poor farm.

As showing the growth of the county we may say that the school census gave the number of children of school age as 2,377. Denison township had most, with 426, and Charter Oak the least, having but 27.

In the year 1876 the county was stirred literally to its very depths by a search for coal. A certain gentleman by the name of W. P. Fox, who evidently did not belie his name, came to the county and professed to believe that there were large bodies of coal to be found in paying quantities and at not an exceeding depth. Reports which he published in the Denison papers at that time were most flattering and were a queer admixture of alluring bombast and scientific jargon. Professor Fox made what was supposed to be a geological survey of the county and in his published report he prophesied that coal would be found in numerous places, but said the most flattering prospects were on the Molony farm, about one mile from Denison. Mr. Fox submitted the following proposition to the board: "In order to back up my judgment as regards the local deposits of coal in this county I am willing and anxious to sink one hole



DREDGING ON BOYER DITCH

at least to test the coal. If your honorable body will pay hired help every Saturday night I will see that the hole is put down forthwith. Foreman's pay will be three dollars a day, including drilling tools, etc., you can employ your other men to work under my foreman to suit yourselves, and if this hole proves a success then I will leave it to your own generosity what pay I shall have. All I ask is for my board to be paid when here on duty. If only one hole is sunk, I would recommend the one on section 12, Denison township."

The board accepted this proposition and C. Green was authorized to "hire help to bore hole and to have general supervision of same, to depth of two hundred and seventy-five feet." The work was pushed with vigor and on October 25 the Review states: "At present writing the hole being drilled for coal on Mr. Molony's place has reached a depth of one hundred feet. The drillers state that they would have been down over two hundred feet had not the sand and gravel drifted in on them, to remedy which they had to tube the hole with boards, which delayed the process of drilling." On September 20th of the same year the Review strikes the following despairing note: "China or coal has ceased to be the motto of the county coal miners. At two hundred and twenty-five feet they struck quicksand, which we are told is an unfavorable symptom. We are sorry that this investment did not turn out better—particularly as the shaft was sunk on A. D. Molony's land. The coal question of Crawford county may be regarded as being settled for some years at least."

By this time Crawford had become the sixty-eighth county in Iowa in point of population, and the November election showed a very respectable vote. The canvass shows the following results: For president, Hayes, 1,043; Tilden, 638; clerk, W. S. Wilson, 1,105; Thomas Rasp, 583; recorder, J. D. Poitevin, 900; Nick Miller, 766; supervisors, Robert Hope, 1,023; Robert Bell, 663; W. W. Jackson, 1,008; Henry Stamer, 657; for herd law, 817; against, 344; for poor farm, 459; against, 535. The board of supervisors in 1877, therefore, consisted of Robert Hope, chairman; J. D. Jones, Harvey Bishop, C. Green and W. W. Jackson. The value of lands continued to rise and for the first time we note that prairie land is apportioned as being more valuable than timber land. The school census showed a total of 2,884. The prices of land as reported by the assessors of the different townships varied from four dollars, seventeen cents per acre in Soldier to six dollars and nine cents in Hayes. This year, 1877, Mr. J. Fred Meyers was appointed to represent this county at a meeting of the state board of equalization to be held at Des Moines.

Very little of importance was recorded during this year or in the year 1878, until on May 8th a special session of the board of supervisors was called to take measures for the relief of tornado sufferers in Hanover, Otter Creek and Stockholm townships. The story of this fearful visitation, the loss of life and the devastation of many happy homes, will be told in another chapter. But something of the magnitude of the disaster is shown by the following record of claims allowed and appropriations made in behalf of the sufferers. "Claim of Bond Brothers for coffins, bedsteads, chairs and table for Zage, Marquardt, Larsen and Nelson families, tornado sufferers, Otter Creek township, fifty-seven dollars, fifty cents. E. S. Plimpton, medicine furnished children of John Larsen, Otter Creek township, deceased by tornado, twenty-two dollars, six cents."

Further items for clothing and merchandise furnished totaled three hundred forty-nine dollars, forty cents, in addition to which we find medical services, thirty dollars; medical fees, tornado sufferers, twenty-eight dollars; inquest over body of Algo Zage, twelve dollars, sixty-five cents; inquest, body of Fritz Zage, eleven dollars, forty-five cents; inquest, Anna Carlson, thirty-two dollars, fifteen cents; relief of tornado sufferers one hundred and ten dollars; nursing tornado sufferers, fifteen dollars; coffin for N. Molfer, twelve dollars." Again in October "twenty dollars for the relief of tornado sufferers." This was the greatest calamity that ever befell the county and we are glad to know that both as a county government and as individuals the people rose to the emergency with quick and ample relief.

In 1879 the board consisted of Robert Hope, chairman; W. W. Jackson, Henry Van De Vere, Clark Winans and A. McMartin. The auditor made a special report of the financial expenditures of the county, which were as follows: "General, \$11,158.79; courts, \$5,119.27; poor, \$2,423.16; tornado sufferers, \$589.40; swamp land, J. W. Denison, \$2,998.80; Glenwood Asylum, \$13.27." Under general expense the premiums on wild animals amounted to \$265.24. The swamp land expenditure was made up as follows: Judgment, \$2,637.80; attorneys, \$200.00; costs, \$161.00; total, \$2,998.80. Auditor Molony further states that "during fourteen years the permanent school fund has not lost one cent, either principal or interest."

In the election of 1878 the board was authorized to purchase a county farm. In pursuance of this election one hundred and sixty acres were purchased from D. R. Gillette at fifteen dollars per acre. Messrs. Hope and Van De Vere were appointed to visit Marshall and Boone counties and investigate poor farms and purchase lumber for poorhouse. They were also instructed to construct necessary bridges on the farm and to make arrangements for cultivation. By July, 1879, all paupers were notified that poorhouse was ready and that outside aid would thereafter be refused. This latter order, however, was never made effective. It was in this same year that Denison first made provision for fire protection and the board donated the use of the southeast corner of the courthouse square on which to erect a building for fire purposes. In July, 1879, we have the first note of the election of a county physician in the person of Dr. W. W. Holmes.

The county started the year 1880 with the board of supervisors composed of Henry Van De Vere, Clark Winans, A. McMartin, J. P. Miller, and M. Smith, who was chairman. The financial statement for 1879 showed that the total expenditures for the poor farm building and equipment was \$11,603.00. The number of school children had increased to 3,727. The rate of interest on school loans was reduced from ten per cent to eight per cent. The herd law was again submitted.

In 1881, August Schultz succeeded Henry Van De Vere on the board by election, and J. P. Fitch succeeded by appointment to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of M. Smith, who had been elected recorder. In this year, 1881, was the first time that a German paper was recognized as one of the official papers of the county. This year was also characterized by the commencement of a county jail. In answer to a petition, J. P. Fitch, chairman of

the board, answered that there were no county funds available and recommended a tax levy of one mill. From Shelby county it was learned that the probable cost would be about eight thousand, five hundred dollars; in October of the same year J. P. Miller was authorized by the board to purchase a steel or iron cage for jail purposes and to erect a suitable building to contain the same in the town of Denison.

In 1882 the members of the board were J. P. Miller, chairman; Robert Hope, Charles J. Johnson, August Schultz, and Morris Chambers. Messrs. Chambers and Johnson were ordered to report as to the advisability of the erection of a jail the cost not to exceed five thousand dollars, and in April they reported adversely. The county records are given something of a wild west flavor at this time by the allowance of a claim to J. D. Jones for conveying "Cayuse Bill" to Council Bluffs.

The year 1882 was memorable on account of the statewide special election on the prohibitory amendment. Although it carried in the state it was lost in this county, the vote being 958 for and 977 against. In the general election following, Crawford for the first time in many years, in fact for the first time after the war, gave a majority against the republican party. It was in 1882 that the first of the little frame additions to the courthouse, familiarly known as "the warts" were authorized.

The board of supervisors in 1883 consisted of August Schultz, chairman; C. J. Johnson, Morris Chambers, C. P. Harvey, and C. H. Evers. At this first session West Side township was divided into two voting precincts, the west half to be called the Vail precinct and the east half to be called the West Side precinct. It was in April of this year that we find first mention of "Kate Molony," as deputy auditor. In spite of the bad luck of former years the search for coal was not entirely abandoned, and a reward of one thousand dollars was offered by the county for the discovery of coal in paying quantities. So far as we know, this reward has never been claimed and is still outstanding. In June, 1883, Dr. W. T. Wright succeeded Dr. Holmes as county physician.

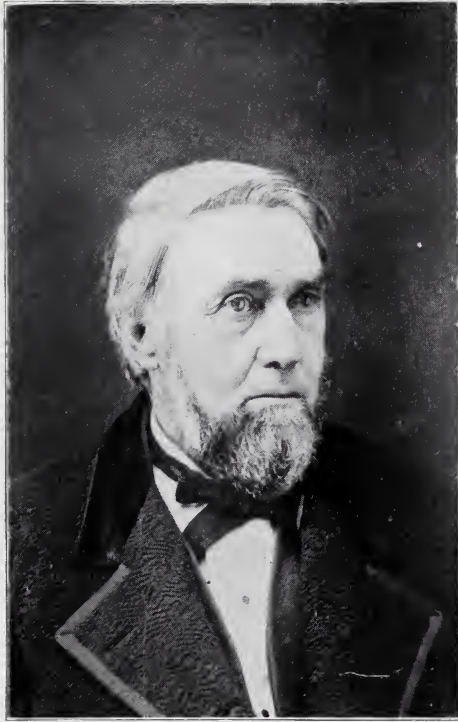
Among the county officers in 1884 were A. D. Molony, auditor; E. M. Ainsworth, superintendent; John Seemann, sheriff; Kate Molony, deputy auditor; Henry Bell, deputy sheriff; Morris McHenry, surveyor; Henry Grone-meyer, deputy sheriff; Lily V. Heston, deputy clerk; and John B. Poitevin, treasurer. Conner & Shaw were employed as county attorneys for the year 1884. It was in this year also that the public platform where so many of our Memorial Day and Fourth of July celebrations were held, was erected. The main line of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad went through the southern part of the county in 1883 and Astor gave promise of being one of the important towns of the county. It was in recognition of this that the road known as the Denison & Astor Short Cut Road was established. In 1884 a violent hailstorm visited Union and Washington townships and the board found it just to remit the taxes of hailstorm sufferers in proportion to their losses. These ran all the way from total loss to a slight percentage.

In 1885 the board remained the same as in the year previous. N. J. Wheeler was clerk of the district court, and in January the resignation of County Treasurer John B. Poitevin was tendered and accepted. Mr. Poitevin

stated that the new law placed added duties upon the treasurer without added compensation, and he did not wish to continue in the office. After several ballots D. O. Johnson was elected treasurer by the board. The question of the erection of a jail was submitted to the people in 1884, and in February, 1885, the contracts were let to P. J. Pauly & Brothers, of St. Louis, for a total of ten thousand dollars, and the site of the jail was fixed at ninety-one feet north of the courthouse. In the summer of 1885 there was another severe hailstorm in Morgan, Soldier, Hanover and Goodrich townships. The question of affording relief by the remission of taxes became a serious matter when the devastating storms came so frequently, and the question of affording relief was submitted at the general election, when it was not carried.

W. A. Davie was the only new member of the board in 1886. By 1887 the appraised valuation of lands had increased materially and all lands were assessed at from four dollars to twenty dollars per acre. It was at this time that the branch line of the Milwaukee was built, the first indirect mention in the annals of the board being the establishment of the Kenwood road in September, 1887. Having been elected a member of the legislature, W. A. Davie resigned as a member of the board of supervisors, and J. F. Wiley was appointed to fill the vacancy. On the following day, however, Mr. Wiley's appointment was withdrawn and L. Cornwell was appointed.

The opening of the year 1888 was a memorable time in our county history for it marked the close of the career of Andrew D. Molony, for many years one of the best beloved of our citizens. Mr. Molony had, as we have before stated, been the main prop of our county government for a quarter of a century. He grew old and feeble in the service and during the last years his connection with the auditor's office was merely nominal, its business being in the hands of his capable daughter, known then to all the county as Kate Molony. It had become almost a tradition with the democratic party of the county to nominate A. D. Molony for auditor every two years, and it had become almost equally traditional for the people to elect him by handsome majorities. Politics is no respecter of persons, nor of age or infirmity, and the demand of active and younger democrats of the county for this nomination finally became too strong to be resisted and Mr. Allen, agent of the Northwestern at West Side, was nominated by the democratic party after a bitter convention fight. The republican nominee was Mr. N. L. Hunt, then of Deloit, and he was pledged to the retention of Miss Molony as his deputy. The campaign was fought along these lines, and Mr. Hunt was successful by fifty majority. While this was a vindication for Mr. Molony and his friends it nevertheless left him without official position. It was therefore with sadness that his friends saw the 1st day of January approach when he should abdicate the position which he had held so long. He often stated to his friends that he had hoped to die while still in the service of the county. Although large sums of money had passed through his hands and he had been in a position for many years where he could have benefited himself without injury to the county, Mr. Molony's honesty and generosity had kept him comparatively a poor man. This fact, together with the excitement of a hard fought campaign in which he was greatly interested, hastened his physical decay and in the last days of December it be-



A. D. MOLONY



came known that he was seriously ill. The first day of January fell on Sunday, and therefore the turning over of the county offices could not take place until the following day. It was on the 1st day of January, 1888, that Andy Molony died, and thus by the hand of an all wise Providence his last wish, that he might die in the service of the county, was fulfilled. We believe that Mr. Molony held a place in the affections of the people of this county which has been taken by no other man, and we therefore believe that it will be proper at this place to give a brief account of his life, and of the gloom which fell upon this county at his death.

Mr. Molony was born in Queens county, Ireland, in 1819. He came to the United States in 1836. At Lexington, Kentucky, he was married on April 20, 1854, to Miss Bridget Sheeran, with whom he lived thirty-four years, and who now survive him. He came to Crawford county in 1861 and the same year was appointed clerk of the board of supervisors to fill the vacancy caused by the death of John Purdy. For eleven years, down to 1874, he held the offices of both auditor and county clerk; being in the canvass each year. His indorsement thus often by the people was a high certificate to his sterling traits of character and his integrity as an official. During his term of office he handled some eighty-three thousand dollars worth of the permanent school fund, which he loaned in such a manner that no losses came to the county and the interest on the same was a material aid to the school fund.

The Catholic church at Denison was filled to overflowing with those who wished to show respect to Mr. Molony. The services were conducted by Rev. M. J. Farrelly of Denison, and Rev. B. C. Lenihan, of Boone. The former priest made the remarks at the church. He spoke in most eulogistic terms of the departed, as a member of the Catholic church, a citizen, a husband and a father. He said he came from one of the best and purest Catholic families, his brother having been a most respected priest. His long tenure in office showed that as a citizen he was highly indorsed by the people of the county. As a husband he had been most kind and tender, and as a father had reared a family of children whose virtues were extolled on every hand. The following citizens were selected as pall bearers: S. E. Dow, E. Howorth, Morris McHenry, Robert Hope, Robert Bell, and L. Cornwell. The assistant bearers were Tracy Chapman, August Schultz, C. J. Johnson, Thomas Griffin, Michael Haley and Joseph Brogden.

Speaking editorially of Mr. Molony, his friend, J. Fred Meyers said in the Denison Review the week before Mr. Molony's death:

"Mr. Molony is, therefore, the only auditor Crawford county has ever had. He was elected for the office during the long period down to 1883, when the republicans had a majority of from two hundred to six hundred, often running ahead of his ticket from four hundred to six hundred votes. At the last and final election Mr. Molony was chosen unanimously—the republicans declining to make a nomination against him. Nearly four years ago his health began to fail and for the past two years he has been auditor in name only. He was twice stricken with paralysis and is unable to converse freely, though he is perfectly conscious and recognizes his friends. Miss Kate Molony became

deputy auditor some four years since and took up his work. Aided by her sisters in the clerical duties, she has for the past two years been the head of the office. Many citizens, without regard to party, would have been glad to elect her in her father's place and would have voted for her had they had the opportunity. If Uncle Andy is not rich today it is owing to the boundless liberality in his days of health and to his inability to say 'No' when asked to loan money or to go on the bonds of others.

"May the peace that comes from a clear conscience, the joy which comes from the administration of an affectionate family, the hope which is fed by the consolation of religion, and the resignation which comes from long suffering, abide with him on his bed of pain and may the mercy of the Infinite, with sins pardoned and burned out by suffering, place him among those of whom it is said: 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'"

The county was plunged in greatest grief by the news of Mr. Molony's death and the funeral was notable as the largest that has ever been held in Crawford county. The board of supervisors appointed Mr. August Schultz and Mr. O. M. Criswell as a committee to draft resolutions expressive of the sympathy of the board, and the following were adopted:

Whereas, it has pleased a Divine Providence to remove by death from our midst Auditor A. D. Molony, who has been for twenty-seven years the secretary of this board and a faithful official, again and again indorsed by the people for his fidelity,

Resolved, That by the death of Auditor A. D. Molony Crawford county has lost one of its oldest pioneers, who shared with the earliest settlers the inconveniences and privations of pioneer life, a faithful official and warm friend, a worthy citizen of exemplary hospitality to all classes, and of great liberality to the poor,

Resolved, That we share the sorrow of the family in its bereavement, and in testimony of our sympathy it is ordered that this resolution be spread upon the minute book of this board, and that an engrossed copy thereof be transmitted to Mrs. A. D. Molony.

Resolved, That in further testimony of our respect this board will attend the funeral of the deceased in a body on next Wednesday, January 4th, and will adjourn until Thursday morning, January 5, 1888.

These years were prosperous ones for Crawford county. The main line of the Milwaukee had been completed and later the Sioux City branch of the Milwaukee had been constructed. The total railroad mileage of the county in April, 1888, is given as forty-six and ninety-eight one hundredth miles. The number of school children in the county was 5,976. Manilla and Charter Oak had become thriving towns, Manilla having a school census in 1888 of 213. The expense of county government for the year 1888 was about forty-three thousand dollars. It was in 1889 that the first real efforts were made toward the erection of a new courthouse and the proposition was submitted and defeated at a special election held on August 27th.

In 1892 the Australian ballot was used for the first time. This law created much confusion at first and in 1893 the poll boxes of Union and Charter Oak

townships were rejected, not having been signed by clerks and judges of election.

In 1893 we find the first mention of the name of John T. Carey as deputy treasurer, thus commencing an official career which in some capacity has continued almost without interruption to the present day. In 1894 the statewide prohibitory law was amended by the additions of the mulct tax provisions, and the first petition under this new law was circulated with success in June, of 1894. 1893 witnessed the establishment of the soldier's relief commission, of which George L. Wright, L. F. Morris and Isaac Gillmor were the first members, Mr. Morris still holding a position on that board.

We leave to another chapter the political history of the county and the results of elections, noting, however, that in November, 1895, Mr. Charles Wenzel resigned as a member of the board and Mr. F. O. Ivens served for a short time in his place.

By the year 1900 the branch lines of the Northwestern and the Omaha extension of the Illinois Central had been completed and the total railroad mileage in the county was increased to one hundred, fifty-six and twenty-six one-hundredth miles, this being the last railroad building in the county excepting a short distance traversed by the Chicago & Great Western in its line from Carroll to Omaha.

In 1900 the courthouse question was again submitted and again rejected by the people. During this year two places were filled by appointment, John Holland being appointed supervisor vice John White, deceased; and H. H. Klinker being appointed coroner vice M. N. Smith, resigned. The new election law took effect in this year and caused some confusion as to the expiration of terms of office. Mr. George W. Langley claimed his seat as a member of the board of supervisors on the ground that the term had been continued under the new law. This claim was not allowed and Mr. William Flaherty, who had been elected, was seated. In order to prevent any misunderstanding, Mr. Carey, who was auditor, tendered his resignation and M. J. Collins, who had been elected, was appointed.

The minutes of the board for the next two years show only routine business. On March 20, 1902, J. G. Smith resigned from the board after serving less than three months, and Mr. Charles Dugan was appointed in his stead. In June of 1902 the courthouse proposition was ordered again submitted. The election was held with the regular election in November and was carried by a vote of 2,165 for to 1,697 against. During 1902 and the preceding years, there had been a number of serious criminal offenses at or near the town of Arion which, being at the junction of three roads, became a convenient way station for vagabonds and criminals. The crimes committed ran all the way from disorderly conduct to hold-ups and murder, and in order to preserve the peace a special deputy sheriff was appointed to reside at Arion. This office was continued until January, 1908.

The authorization of the issuance of seventy-five thousand dollars in bonds for the erection of a courthouse brought much work to the board of supervisors, and the history of the board for the next three years is very largely devoted to this subject.

In 1903 the last political sub-division of the county was made, Otter Creek township being divided into two voting precincts, that of Schleswig and of Kiron.

In April, 1905, the county poorhouse was totally destroyed by fire. This necessitated the placing of county charges in various institutions, where they have been supported up to this time. In 1910 a proposition to dispose of part of the poor farm and issue bonds for twenty-five thousand dollars for the construction of a poorhouse was submitted to the people and carried. In pursuance of this authorization by the people, one hundred and sixty acres of the farm was sold as directed, and a substantial county home is now under progress of erection. The most extensive county improvement now in progress is the project for straightening the course of the Boyer river and affording drainage to the lands along the Boyer valley. Petition for this improvement was made by citizens affected and on September 17, 1909, the board ordered Morris McHenry, county surveyor, to make a preliminary survey of the river, beginning with section 1, Union township, to connect with the Harrison county lateral. Mr. McHenry reported December 14, 1909, and recommended the establishment of drainage districts, as prayed by petition. This report was adopted and the Boyer drainage ditch No. 1 was established in two sections, section 1 beginning at the right bank of the Boyer on the south line of the county, terminating on the township line between Boyer and Union townships; section 2 to extend from this point to the terminus of the ditch on the east line of section 36 in Paradise township. The drainage ditch was ordered on March 24, 1910, and commissioners were appointed to assess taxes and allow damages. Mr. E. K. Burch was appointed clerk and attorney of the drainage district. The engineer's final report was accepted June 27, 1910. On July 20th the drainage ditch was ordered extended to straighten the channel of Paradise creek in sections 3, 4, 9 and 10 of Paradise township. The contract for the main ditch was awarded on August 26, 1910, to the Hamilton Construction Company at six and forty-seven one-hundredths cents per cubic yard. Mr. McHenry was appointed supervising engineer. The Paradise lateral ditch contract was awarded to John Ahart at sixteen cents per cubic yard. On January 6, 1911, Mr. Morris McHenry, supervising engineer, made a report to the county that the work of the construction company was not being properly done; that the center line was not being followed and that dirt was being piled up outside the one hundred and fifty feet right of way. The board served notice upon the Hammond Construction Company to comply strictly with the terms of the contract, and the work is now progressing satisfactorily under the charge of Herbert Fishel, the present engineer.

This report concerning the drainage ditch was the last official act of Mr. Morris McHenry, a man whose connection with the county began with the old log schoolhouse erected by volunteer labor in Mason's Grove in 1856, and continued with but brief intermissions until the time of his death on January 16, 1911. The grief occasioned by the death of him who was familiarly known from one end of Crawford to the other as "Uncle Morris" is still fresh in the minds and hearts of all. Crawford has had many men whom it has honored, admired and respected. It has had men who have impressed their personali-



SCENES ALONG THE BOYER

ties upon the community as being men of extraordinary vigor and capacity. It has had men who have accomplished much, who have been honored by state and nation, but in all the course of its history of more than half a century it has had but three "Uncles"—Uncle Daniel Howorth, Uncle Andy Molony and Uncle Morris McHenry. To us it seems that this is one of the dearest titles that a man can earn. It establishes a claim of relationship, an intimate friendliness and affection which no other title can bestow. Uncle Morris McHenry was fully worthy of all the love given him by the people. He was honest and honorable, kind-hearted, stalwart in his Christianity and in his citizenship. The many duties which the county gave him to perform were done to the best of his ability and with an unfailing fidelity to his trust. He had a cheery optimism that brought gladness to the heart and made better the meanest man with whom he came in contact. Just as in years gone by it was believed that evil spirits fled before the sign of the cross, so evil actions were impossible in the presence of this true-hearted, righteous man. Morris McHenry came to Crawford county in May, 1856, walking from Council Bluffs, stopping the first night after reaching the county at the home of S. J. Comfort, near what is now the town of Dow City, and it was then for the first time that he met Mary L. Comfort, who afterward became his wife. The second night after his advent into the county Mr. McHenry spent at the home of Benjamin Dobson, near what is now the town of Deloit. He was a capable young man of good education, and he was soon offered the position of deputy surveyor by Mr. H. C. Laub. In the fall of 1856 he was elected county surveyor and began what was to be in a large measure his life work. Every road, every section line, every corner was a familiar spot to Morris McHenry. The income of the surveyor's office was so small during those early years and the demand upon his time was so limited that he organized a pay school in the Mason's Grove neighborhood, which he taught during the severe winter of 1856-57 in the old log schoolhouse fitted up by himself and the people of that neighborhood. This was the first school in the county.

Christianity had a very large place in his life. He was singularly enthusiastic in his religion and seemed in his person to typify the great Methodist church, to which he belonged. He was a charter member of the first church organized in the county, in 1856. In 1857 he assisted in organizing the first Sunday school and became one of its teachers.

In 1857 he was elected assessor, adding this to his duties as surveyor, and in the fall of the same year he was elected county treasurer and recorder. He made the first plat of the town of Denison in the year 1857, and in 1858 he removed to Denison, where he lived until 1877, when he moved to his farm near Dow City. As we have already recorded, his was one of the earliest marriages in the county, he having been united to Mary L. Comfort on December 25, 1859. Mr. McHenry resigned the office of county treasurer and at another time resigned the office of county surveyor, but the people reelected him time and again to serve in the latter capacity, as they had utmost faith in all that he said or did. He performed much service for the Illinois Central Railway when it built through the county and it was largely through his good offices that there was but little litigation concerning the right of way. We have seen

above that he was active to the last. But a few days prior to his death he was in Denison engaged upon the business of the county. Always a republican, he was elected to office time and again by the aid of votes of democratic friends, and he should be accorded his place as first in the hearts of the people of this county. Funeral services were held on the morning of Thursday, January 19, 1911, Rev. G. W. Koser, pastor of his church at Dow City, officiating. In spite of the inclement weather these services were attended by large numbers of pioneers from all parts of the county, and his remains now lie at rest in Oakland cemetery, which he first surveyed for the people as a labor of love, among the hills of Crawford, which he knew so well and which he loved so dearly. In fitting memory of his life work among us the board of supervisors passed the following resolutions, which will remain among the permanent records of our county:

Whereas, Almighty God has taken from us Morris McHenry, the man who above all others as county treasurer, county surveyor, an enlightened citizen, was identified with the history and government of Crawford county. The man who stands forth preeminently as a faithful and competent servant of the people whom he loved and who loved him. And, whereas, we feel to the fullest extent the personal grief that is shared by all who knew him.

Be it resolved, that we, the board of supervisors of Crawford county, in behalf of the citizens of Crawford county tender our most sincere sympathy to his widow and his loved ones and express our appreciation of a splendid and unselfish service to the county during a period of over half a century. Our affection for him as a personal friend and council and the reverence with which we shall hold his memory in our hearts. We point with pride to his record of long and honorable service and rejoice with the people of this county in the rich heritage of his example and his life. We feel that we but voice the heartiest sentiment of every man, woman and child within the confines of this county when we pay tribute to the memory of this man, who was first in the hearts of all who knew him.

Resolved, that these resolutions be spread upon the minute book and that a copy be sent to the bereaved widow of Morris McHenry, deceased.

(Signed)

H. D. BAETH,
JOHN HAGGE,
JOHN HOLLAND,
THOMAS AHART,
J. T. CAREY.

This brings the history of our county government down to the present time. The board of supervisors now has upon its hands two important problems, that of erecting the county home; and the completion of the drainage ditch along the Boyer river. The auditor's report shows that there are outstanding bonds for the courthouse amounting to fifty-two thousand dollars; for the bridge fund of fifty thousand dollars; while the school fund has on hand in notes \$21,500. The tax levy made September, 1910, for state and county purposes, was as follows: State, 3.3 mills; state college, .2; state normal, .1; county, 3.5; school,

1; bridge, 5; road, 1; insane, .5; courthouse bonds, 3.4; bridge bonds, 3; state university, .2; poor, 1.6; soldiers' relief, .5; total, 23.3 mills.

The total railroad mileage of the county now stands at one hundred, fifty eight and thirteen one-hundredth miles. The present board of supervisors is composed of Hans D. Baeth, chairman; John Holland; Thomas Ahart; John Hagge; and John T. Carey. The county is represented in the present legislature by Senator E. L. Crow, of Monona county, and in the house by Edward Downey, of Jackson township. The present county officers are: M. J. Collins, auditor; Louis Evers, treasurer; Frank Faul, clerk of district court; W. E. Terry, recorder; H. J. Cummings, sheriff; F. N. Olry, superintendent; H. E. Fishel, county surveyor; P. J. Klinker, county attorney; and William Byrnes, coroner, all of whom are of democratic faith, save Mr. Klinker and Mr. Fishel. The census figures for the entire county taken by the government in 1910 are not as yet available, but we give below a partial table of the school census from the years 1900 to 1910, inclusive:

No. Children	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
County	7,818	7,735	7,721	7,884	7,629	7,556	7,286	7,199	7,188	6,703	6,450
Manilla	384	386	357	381	379	384	387	388	389	390	379
Dow City	215	214	234	227	241	177	238	223	208	208	183
Denison	968	978	1,137	1,224	1,246	1,312	1,190	1,107	1,138	1,102	1,037
West Side	183	162	157	142	120	154	143	148	153	150	159
Vall	268	265	276	270	260	275	283	280	287	257	273
Charter Oak	436	303	303	299	309	322	296	318	297	286	279
Smallest: Boyer ...	169	181	187	192							
E. Boyer ...					182	191	181	182	162	126	136

These figures include the totals for the county and for the various municipalities. They would seem to indicate that for the past five years the county has lost in population, largely owing undoubtedly to the movement of our younger people to the cheaper lands of western and northern states. This movement is but a repetition of the movement which settled this county fifty years ago. It is not a permanent loss and there is no doubt but that succeeding years will find an increased population just as has been found in the eastern states, which gave of their people to settle Iowa.

CHAPTER XII.

POLITICAL HISTORY OF CRAWFORD COUNTY.

Politics is a sensitive subject with most men. The majority will resent an affront, real or fancied, to their political convictions almost as quickly as they will resent an insult to their religion. Realizing that this is treading upon delicate ground, this chapter will give only the incontrovertible facts of the political history of this county, without comment and without argument.

The early settlers came from all sections of the country; from the south as well as from the east and north. They doubtless brought with them their old-time political prejudices and affiliations, but they were removed from all scenes of national activity. They learned to know each other as friends and neighbors, and not as politicians. Living in an unorganized county in a state to which they were strangers, government and politics were largely theoretical and did not enter into their daily lives. Like all Americans, they wished for local home government, and it was this that led to the petition for the organization of the county in 1855. At this first election held subsequent to the granting of their petition, we cannot find that any party lines were drawn, nor can we find it in any of the elections prior to 1860. The great national election which so stirred the hearts of men and which saw the real birth of the republican party, created hardly a ripple among the frontiersmen of this section. The war made the entire north republican. We have no record of the vote, but from conditions we know that this county gave ample majority to Abraham Lincoln, both in 1860 and in 1864. Even then, with all the excitement and feeling created, there seems to have been no strong local political prejudices. This is well illustrated by the fact that in 1862 Andy Molony, a lifelong democrat, began his political career in Crawford county and that he was able to maintain himself in office year after year in spite of republican majorities. The first year after the war, Crawford county, in common with the rest of the north, was practically unanimously republican save that, as we have seen, party lines were forgotten in the election of favorite county officers.

By the early '70s, however, there came a feeling of political unrest. There was the republican party and the opposition party, which went under different names, such as the Grange party, the Anti-Monopoly party, the Independent Democratic party, and finally the Greenback party. Throughout all the years from 1870 to 1880 the republican party maintained a large ascendancy in all

national and state elections in this county. Large majorities, considering the size of the vote, were given to Grant, Hayes and Garfield. The Americans, we mean rather the native Americans, were divided, with a majority republican. The Swedes and the Germans were almost unanimously republican; the Irish were almost unanimously democratic. The large influx of Swedish and German immigrants during this decade strengthened the hold of the republican party during all these years; there were, however, numerous democrats in office. A. D. Molony and later L. Cornwell were invincible democratic candidates and others were elected from time to time on the grounds of fitness or of personal popularity. In the year 1880 President Garfield received a phenomenal majority. In one township, Morgan, there were but three democratic votes, and it was explained by the township officials that these were cast by men who were but nominally residents, and who did not really belong to the township. Soon after the election of 1880, the question of a prohibitory amendment was agitated throughout the state. The vote in this county was very close, the amendment being defeated by less than fifty votes. A large number of people felt that the passage of this prohibitory law was unwise and that it interfered with their personal liberties. They held the republican party responsible for bringing this question to a vote and for the prohibitory legislation which followed it. The result was an upheaval in the politics of the county, so that in the year 1882 the county gave a democratic majority for almost the first time in its history. This political revolution gave the democratic party ascendancy, not only in national and state affairs, but in the affairs of the county, and since that time the election of republicans to county offices has been the exception and not the rule. J. P. Dolliver, long the congressman from this district, never received a majority vote in Crawford county.

The balance of the parties remained about the same during the next decade, until there came the deep seated political change which preceded the famous election of 1896. At this time the political alignments of the county were radically altered. Many of the foremost republicans were led by their convictions to adopt the policies of Mr. Bryan and the advocates of free silver. At the same time there was a large desertion from the democratic ranks. Republican leaders became democratic leaders, and democratic workers became prominent in the ranks of republicanism. These lines have not materially altered since that time. The campaign of 1896 was a most memorable one and stirred the county to its depths.

Since 1896 the county has been normally democratic, and has in fact almost invariably given democratic majorities, save in 1904, when the personal popularity of Theodore Roosevelt gave the republicans a temporary victory. During these years but two men, Governor Leslie M. Shaw, and Hon. J. P. Conner, have achieved marked political success beyond the limits of Crawford county. The campaign for the nomination of Mr. Shaw, in 1897, was participated in by men of all parties. A vast amount of enthusiasm was shown and a large and representative delegation went from every part of the county to the Cedar Rapids convention at which Mr. Shaw was nominated. Again in the nomination of Mr. Conner the same spirit of non-partisan friendliness was shown and at a later election Mr. Conner had the honor of being the only republican

candidate for congress who carried this county against an opposing candidate since 1880. In the last few years the republican party has been divided along factional lines, with a consequent strengthening of democracy.

The most conspicuous citizen that Denison has given to the world is Leslie Mortimer Shaw. It is indeed difficult for some of us to realize that the man who first came among us as a seller of fruit trees and who lived with us so many years, devoting his energies to the same little things that have entered into our lives, is the Leslie M. Shaw who guided the financial interests of the nation and who has hundreds of thousands of ardent admirers and followers in every state of the union. Mr. Shaw was born in Lamoille county, Vermont, November 2, 1848. In 1871, he entered Cornell college graduating in 1874. Two years later he graduated from the law department of the state university and the same year located permanently in Denison. He grew constantly as a man and as a citizen. He was recognized as a great lawyer, a shrewd banker, a zealous church man, and a most effective worker in the civic affairs of the community. While taking part as a Republican in the political affairs of the county, Mr. Shaw never devoted himself to the problems of statecraft until what he considered to be the dangerous doctrine of Free Silver became the paramount issue. It is related with much gusto by his friends, that his political awakening came through a speech delivered in Denison by William Jennings Bryan. In this speech Mr. Bryan advocated the doctrines of Free Silver with an eloquence which was almost overwhelming. Mr. Shaw was convinced that Bryan was wrong, but he felt that he was not sufficiently informed to refute his arguments. This led Mr. Shaw to devote the splendid energies of his well trained legal mind to questions of national finance. He hired a hall and delivered an answer to Bryan, but this answer was not satisfactory either to himself or to his friends. Shaw went back to his problem again, more study, more research, more preparation, and then he tried it again. Those who heard him at this time felt that at last the cause of what they termed "Sound money" had found an adequate champion. During the campaigns of 1894, 1895, Mr. Shaw was in great demand and in the great battle of 1896, he became one of the most forcible and effective advocates of the gold standard in the United States. His speeches were circulated by the million, and they had a pronounced effect upon the national result. It was this that laid the foundation for his candidacy for the governorship of Iowa. It is greatly to the credit of the people of Denison that they were quick to recognize his worth and devoted themselves eagerly and without jealousy to his cause. Men left their business, and for weeks did nothing but promote this candidacy. The campaign was brief, and it closed with one of the most memorable and exciting conventions the Republicans of Iowa have ever held. On the 4th ballot, at the Cedar Rapids convention, Mr. Shaw was declared the nominee, and Denison went wild with joy. A great non-partisan reception was accorded him upon his return. As governor of Iowa Mr. Shaw excelled both as a business-like executive and as a man of sufficient mentality and magnetism to represent the great state of Iowa in the councils of the nation. The appointment of Governor Shaw to be Secretary of the Treasury in the cabinet of President Roosevelt came as a surprise, but was at once recognized as the best possible appointment. In this high position Governor Shaw made good, just as he had made good in everything else that he had undertaken.

After more than four years in this place of vast responsibility, Governor Shaw resigned to reenter the field of business. He became president of the Carnegie Trust Company of New York, and piloted that institution through the days of its birth and through the financial storms of 1907. Not being able to agree with the other managers of the company, Governor Shaw withdrew his capital and founded The First Mortgage Loan and Trust Company, of Philadelphia, of which company he is now the head. For some years Mr. Shaw retained large holdings in Denison and vicinity. These he has now disposed of, with the exception that he has retained an interest in the National Bank of Manila and a controlling interest in the Bank of Denison. Denison people may well regret that he has thus withdrawn himself from their community, but the city will always have reason to be proud that it was the home of one of the great statesmen of his day.

CHAPTER XIII.

ELECTIONS.

Unfortunately the records of the county have not always been preserved, as required by law, and we are unable to give the exact results of elections prior to 1869. Even some of those of a later date are incomplete in the county records. In fact for the first detailed election table we must refer to the files of the Denison Review, on October 23, 1869. There were seven voting precincts in the county, namely: East Boyer, Boyer, Charter Oak, Denison, Jackson, Milford and Union. As these records are of interest and should be preserved, we give on the following pages a synopsis of the vote of the county at each election from 1869 to the present date.

ELECTION OF 1869.

Governor, Samuel Merrill, Rep., 224; George Gillespie, Dem., 146.
State Senator, Charles Atkins, Rep., 218; L. R. Bolter, Dem., 160.
Representative, H. C. Laub, Rep., 221; J. D. Miracle, Dem., 88.
Auditor, A. D. Molony, Dem., 348.
Treasurer, Morris McHenry, Rep., 366.
Sheriff, S. P. Gardner, Rep., 94; S. P. Blankenship, Dem., 256.
Superintendent, N. J. Wheeler, Dem., 165.
Coroner, William Iseminger, Rep., 74.
Surveyor, Morris McHenry, Rep., 367.

1870.

Secretary of State, Ed Wright, Rep., 275; Charles Doerr, Dem., 173.
Congressman, Jackson Orr, Rep., 274; C. C. Smeltzer, Dem., 173.
Clerk, A. D. Molony, Peoples, 273; Freeman Knowles, Rep., 189.
Recorder, B. F. Darling, Rep., 189; Thomas Dobson, Peoples, 260.
Supervisors, Clark Winans, Peoples, 263; Daniel Howorth, Peoples, 195;
Tracy Chapman, Peoples, 206; C. H. De Wolf, Rep., 249; Joseph Hallowell, Rep., 174; B. F. Wicks, Rep., 178.

1871.

Governor, Carpenter, Rep., 354; Knapp, Dem., 226.
 Treasurer, Morris McHenry, Rep., 328; Charles Bullock, People's, 247.
 Auditor, A. Wiggins, Rep., 246; A. D. Molony, People's, 326.
 Supervisors, E. Cadwell, Rep., 261; Clark Winans, Peoples, 315.
 Sheriff, A. C. Smith, Rep., 267; S. P. Blankenship, Peoples, 300.
 Superintendent, William Iseminger, Rep., 275; N. J. Wheeler, Peoples, 293.
 Surveyor, J. D. Miracle, Rep., 287.
 Coroner, B. W. Burk, Rep., 266; Albert Palmer, Peoples, 300.

1872.

President, Grant, Rep., 421; Greeley, Dem., 229.
 Congressman, Orr, Rep., 413; Duncan, Dem., 254.
 District Attorney, H. K. McJunken, Rep., 339; G. L. Wright, Dem., 326.
 Clerk, Freeman Knowles, Rep., 250; A. D. Molony, Dem., 417.
 Supervisors, R. Hope, Rep., 308; L. Cornwell, Dem., 360.
 Recorder, J. B. Poitovin, Rep., 239; S. V. Carr, Dem., 196; E. Miles, Ind. 183; Miss N. Grout, Ind., 38; Orr Wheeler, Ind., 9.

1873.

Governor, C. C. Carpenter, Rep., 465; Jacob G. Vail, Dem., 334.
 Representative, G. W. McMillan, Rep., 421; E. B. Beard, Dem., 352.
 Treasurer, G. W. Heston, Rep., 379; L. Cornwell, Dem., 421.
 Auditor, B. F. Darling, Rep., 268; A. D. Molony, Dem., 515.
 Sheriff, A. C. Smith, Rep., 354; S. P. Blankenship, Dem., 331; Ed Miles, Ind., 99.
 Superintendent, J. De Wolf, Rep., 232; J. O. Stanton, Dem., 432; John Beck, Ind., 132.
 Surveyor, Morris McHenry, Rep., 571; E. W. Sargent, Dem., 205.
 Supervisors, George Rae, Rep., 445; Robert Hope, Rep., 403; J. D. Jones, Rep., 378; Robert Bell, Dem., 383; J. McAndrew, Dem., 343; Michael Riddle, Dem., 321.
 Coroner, William Iseminger, Rep., 453; D. McWilliams, Dem., 284.
 N. B.—This table does not include the returns from Iowa township, which did not alter the result of the election.

1874.

Secretary of State, J. T. Young, Rep., 579; D. Young, Dem., 422.
 Congressman, Addison Oliver, Rep., 552; C. E. Whiting, Dem., 451.
 Clerk, W. S. Wilson, Rep., 521; N. J. Wheeler, Dem., 249; R. P. Bartley, Ind., 138; E. Miles, Ind., 82.
 Recorder, J. B. Poitovin, Rep., 670; Thomas Dobson, Dem., 335.
 Superintendent, N. F. Smith, Rep., 552; Z. T. Hawk, Dem., 439.

Supervisors, J. D. Jones, Rep., 538; Clark Winans, Dem., 468.
To fill vacancies, Tracy Chapman, Rep., 543; Michael Riddle, Dem., 416.

1875.

Governor, Kirkwood, Rep., 752; Leffler, Dem., 553.
Senator, Nichols, Rep., 740; McDonald, Dem., 571.
Representative, George Rae, Rep., 758; R. W. Luther, Dem., 539.
Auditor, L. T. Carr, Rep., 649; A. D. Molony, Dem., 652.
Treasurer, Miller, Rep., 539; L. Cornwell, Dem., 787.
Sheriff, A. C. Smith, Rep., 687; S. P. Blankenship, Dem., 615.
Superintendent, N. J. Smith, Rep., 699; G. L. Wright, Dem., 584.
Supervisors, Tracy Chapman, Rep., 609; C. Green, Rep., 684; Harvey
Bishop, Dem., 658; Claus Jahn, Dem., 602.
Surveyor, G. W. Heston, Rep., 1,292.
Coroner, William Iseminger, Rep., 716; McWilliams, Dem., 588.

1876.

President, R. B. Hayes, Rep., 1,043; Samuel Tilden, Dem., 638.
Congress, Oliver, Rep., 1,019; Rees, Dem., 666.
Clerk, W. S. Wilson, Rep., 1,105; Thomas Rasp, Dem., 583.
Recorder, Poitovin, Rep., 900; N. A. Smith, Dem., 766.
Supervisors, Robert Hope, Rep., 1,023; W. W. Jackson, Rep., 1,008; Robert
Bell, Dem., 663; Henry Stamer, Dem., 657.
District Attorney, A. R. Anderson, Rep., 785; R. G. Phelps, Dem., 713.

ELECTION OF 1877.

Governor, John H. Gear, Rep., 898; John P. Irish, Dem., 651.
State Senator, E. W. Ford, Rep., 856; P. Cadwell, Ind.-Greenback, 826.
Representative, Elijah Peake, Rep., 772; D. D. Harkness, Dem., 892.
Treasurer, Henry C. Morris, Rep., 601; L. Cornwell, Dem., 1,084.
Auditor, H. S. Gulick, Rep., 581; A. D. Molony, Dem., 1,084.
Sheriff, A. C. Smith, Rep., 1,144; A. M. Nixon, Ind., 493.
Superintendent, N. F. Smith, Rep., 807; Z. T. Hawk, Dem., 852.
Surveyor, Geo. Heston, Rep., 1,659.
Coroner, Wm. Iseminger, Rep., 1,664.
Supervisor, A. Norelius, Rep., 782; Henry Stamer, Dem., 882.

1878.

Secretary of State, J. A. T. Hull, Rep., 1,000; E. M. Farnsworth, Dem.,
691.

Supervisors, A. McMartin, Rep., 1,047; H. Vandevere, Rep., 1,006; J. B.
Huckstep, Rep., 821; Clark Winans, Dem., 836; Robert Bell, Dem., 703; M. J.
Keane, Dem., 683.

Recorder, J. B. Poitovin, Rep., 871; N. A. Miller, Dem., 855.
 Clerk, S. W. Wilson, Rep., 1,044; Thomas Rasp, Dem., 682.

1879.

Governor, J. H. Gear, Rep., 1,263; H. H. Trumble, Dem., 735.
 Representative, H. C. Laub, Rep., 1,273; T. A. Morton, Dem., 675.
 Auditor, A. D. Molony, Dem., 1,148; C. Green, Rep., 969.
 Treasurer, M. McHenry, Rep., 932; L. Cornwell, Dem., 1,179.
 Sheriff, J. D. Jones, Rep., 1,140; Jno. Seemann, Dem., 970.
 Superintendent, N. Smith, Rep., 1,245; Z. T. Hawk, Dem., 850.
 Supervisors, J. P. Miller, Rep., 1,241; M. Smith, Rep., 1,175; S. E. Dow, Dem., 883; Thomas Clement, Dem., 867.
 Coroner, William Iseminger, Rep., 2,078.
 Surveyor, A. T. Phelps, Dem., 2,087.

1880.

Clerk, W. S. Wilson, Rep., 1,663.
 Recorder, M. Smith, Rep., 1,308; N. A. Miller, Dem., 1,201.
 Superintendent, H. Vandevere, Rep., 1,099; A. Schultz, Dem., 1,381.

1881.

Auditor, A. McMartin, Rep., 885; A. D. Molony, Dem., 1,260.
 Treasurer, W. J. Wagoner, Rep., 789; L. Cornwell, Dem., 1,354.
 Clerk, G. W. Heston, Rep., 1,497.
 Sheriff, J. D. Jones, Rep., 1,585.
 Coroner, J. E. Samson, Rep., 1,101; M. Fitzgerald, Dem., 1,013.
 Surveyor, Morris McHenry, Rep., 1,188; A. T. Phelps, Dem., 611.
 Superintendent, E. M. Ainsworth, Rep., 1,521.
 Supervisors, Robert Hope, Rep., 1,169; Morris Chambers, Rep., 1,143; C. J. Johnson, Rep., 1,336; P. B. Hoffman, Dem., 979; L. Schofield, Dem., 967; Henry Bell, Dem., 985.

1882.

Secretary of State, J. A. T. Hull, Rep., 1,052; T. O. Walker, Dem., 1,259.
 Congress, A. R. Anderson, Rep., 957; W. H. M. Pusey, Dem., 1,320.
 Clerk, James B. King, Dem., 1,027; George W. Heston, Rep., 1,266.
 Recorder, M. Smith, Rep., 1,166; Charles F. Cassaday, Dem., 1,130.
 Supervisors, Claus Evers, Dem., 1,224; C. P. Harvey, Dem., 1,153; L. T. Carr, Rep., 1,079; J. P. Fitch, Rep., 1,129.
 Coroner, M. Fitzgerald, Dem., 1,187; William Iseminger, Rep., 1,116.

1883.

Governor, B. R. Sherman, Rep., 1,296; L. G. Kinne, Dem., 1,383.
 Representative, H. C. Laub, Rep., 1,127; Charles Bullock, Dem., 1,516.

Auditor, A. D. Molony, Rep., 1,870; Scalleney, Ind., 163.
 Treasurer, J. B. Poitevin, Rep., 1,368; L. Cornwell, Dem., 1,328.
 Sheriff, E. W. McCracken, Rep., 1,210; Jno. Seemann, Dem., 1,484.
 Coroner, J. P. McWilliams, Rep., 1,322; Dr. M. Fitzgerald, Dem., 1,361.
 Superintendent, E. M. Ainsworth, Rep., 1,499.
 Surveyor, Morris McHenry, Rep., 1,552.
 Supervisors, Aug. Schultz, Rep., 1,674; O. M. Caswell, Dem., 991.
 Senator, Oliver, Rep., 1,263; Whitney, Dem., 1,434.

1884.

President, Rep., 1,506; Dem., 1,789.
 Circuit Judge, J. P. Conner, Rep., 1,821; C. H. Jackson, Dem., 1,452.
 District Attorney, Thornell, Rep., 1,691; Tally, Dem., 1,453.
 Congress, W. H. M. Pusey, Dem., 1,729; Joseph Lyman, Rep., 1,552.
 Clerk, G. W. Heston, Rep., 1,624; N. J. Wheeler, Dem., 1,644.
 Recorder, M. Smith, Rep., 1,840; P. J. King, Dem., 1,420.
 Supervisors, S. J. Comfort, Dem., 1,453; T. S. Dutt, Dem., 1,460; C. J. Johnson, Rep., 1,791; Morris Chambers, Rep., 1,472.

1885.

Governor, Larrabee, Rep., 1,355; C. E. Whiting, Dem., 1,709.
 Representative, Tracy Chapman, Rep., 1,473; I. T. Roberts, Dem., 1,587.
 Auditor, A. D. Molony, Rep., 2,486.
 Treasurer, D. O. Johnson, Rep., 1,671; Cassaday, Dem., 1,388.
 Sheriff, L. P. Mooney, Rep., 1,575; C. P. Harvey, Dem., 1,468.
 Superintendent, John Richardson, Rep., 1,495; M. M. McAlpin, Dem., 1,563.
 Surveyor, Morris McHenry, Rep., 1,505; McNertney, Dem., 1,560.
 Coroner, McWilliams, Rep., 1,473; A. J. Moore, Dem., 1,593.
 Supervisors, Isaac Gillmor, Rep., 1,501; Charles Robertson, Rep., 1,353;
 Henry Sievers, Dem., 1,685; William Davie, Dem., 1,562.

1886.

Secretary of State, Jackson, Rep., 1,267; Col. Sells, Dem., 1,615.
 Congress, A. J. Holmes, Rep., 1,262; George Wilmot, Dem., 1,623.
 Circuit Judge, J. P. Conner, Rep., 2,853.
 County Attorney, W. S. Gary, Rep., 1,299; P. E. C. Lally, Dem., 1,564.
 Clerk, H. C. Schlueter, Rep., 1,223; N. J. Wheeler, Dem., 1,637.
 Recorder, M. Smith, Rep., 1,369; Seemann, Dem., 1,518.
 Superintendent, B. Brazell, Rep., 1,364; A. Schultz, Dem., 1,496.

1887.

Governor, Wm. Larrabee, Rep., 1,353; T. J. Anderson, Dem., 1,787.
 Representative, I. A. Mains, Rep., 1,453; W. A. Davie, Dem., 1,692.

'Auditor, N. L. Hunt, Rep., 1,595; W. E. Allen, Dem., 1,545.
 Treasurer, D. O. Johnson, Rep., 1,773; H. Heicksen, Dem., 1,372.
 Sheriff, L. P. Mooney, Rep., 1,606; M. J. Keane, Dem., 1,486.
 Superintendent, M. M. McAlpin, Dem., 1,845; C. H. Brake, Rep., 1,300.
 Surveyor, Morris McHenry, Rep., 1,435; M. J. McNertney, Dem., 1,689.
 Coroner, E. Darling, Rep., 1,424; Dr. J. H. Graham, Dem., 1,726.
 Supervisors, J. B. Romans, Rep., 1,609; H. Evers, Rep., 1,142; O. M. Criswell, Dem., 1,746; C. F. Hensen, Dem., 1,719.

1888.

President, Rep., 1658; Dem., 2,123.
 Representative, J. P. Dolliver, Rep., 1,655; J. A. O. Yeoman, Dem., 2,139.
 Clerk, C. J. Milligan, Rep., 1,545; Wheeler, Dem., 2,233.
 Recorder, J. Seemann, Dem., 2,241.
 Attorney, E. K. Burch, Rep., 1,604; Lally, Dem., 2,122.
 Supervisors, J. B. Romans, Rep., 1,799; F. W. Frenhold, Rep., 1,665; J. McAndrews, Dem., 2,107; A. H. Rudd, Dem., 1,920.

1889.

Governor, J. R. Hutchinson, Rep., 1,317; Horace Boies, Dem., 2,250.
 Senator, T. R. Bolter, Dem., 2,027; J. B. Romans, Rep., 1,518.
 Representative, W. A. Davie, Dem., 2,129; E. A. Packard, Rep., 1,439.
 Auditor, T. J. Rasp, Dem., 2,082; N. L. Hunt, Rep., 1,494.
 Treasurer, George Richardson, Dem., 2,032; D. O. Johnson, Rep., 1,543.
 Sheriff, John Dettemann, Dem., 2,063; L. P. Mooney, Rep., 1,490.
 Superintendent, M. M. McAlpin, Dem., 2,223; Patrick Keeney, Rep., 1,130.
 Surveyor, E. F. Fink, Dem., 1,908; Morris McHenry, Rep., 1,664.
 Supervisor, Charles Wenzel, Dem., 2,190; A. Helsley, Rep., 1,393.
 Coroner, M. Fitzgerald, Dem., 2,167; L. L. Bond, Rep., 1,394.
 August 27, For Courthouse, 923; against courthouse 2,006.

1890.

Secretary State, W. M. McFarland, Rep., 1,373; W. H. Chamberlin, Dem., 2,269.
 Congress, J. P. Dolliver, Rep., 1,367; I. L. Woods, Dem., 2,289.
 Clerk, E. T. Cochran, Rep., 1,490; Ph. A. Schlemberger, Dem., 2,152.
 Recorder, J. F. Holst, Rep., 1,297; W. W. Cushman, Dem., 2,344.
 Attorney, D. L. Boynton, Rep., 1,650; R. Shaw Van, Dem., 1,972.
 Supervisors, C. T. Marshall, Rep., 1,683; John B. Costello, Dem., 1,604;
 D. McGrath, Rep., 1885; Fred Jepsen, Rep., 2,077.

1891.

Governor, H. C. Wheeler, Rep., 1,330; H. Boies, Dem., 2,296; Westfall, Pop., 150.

Representative, Tracy Chapman, Rep., 1,563; Aug. Schultz, Dem., 2,033.
 Treasurer, A. Helsley, Rep., 1,423; George Richardson, Dem., 2,333.
 Sheriff, George Theobald, Rep., 1,417; John Dettmann, Dem., 2,342.
 Superintendent, George E. Henney, Rep., 1,479; Henry Kelly, Dem., 2,278.
 Surveyor, Morris McHenry, Rep., 1,539; M. McNertney, Dem., 2,200.
 Coroner, W. T. Wright, Rep., 1,346; C. W. Carr, Dem., 2,307.
 Supervisors, S. T. Davison, Rep., 1,556; James McAndrews, Dem., 1,389;
 John White, Dem., 2,157; J. R. Smith, Rep., 2,231.

1892.

Secretary of State, J. H. McConlogue, Dem. 2,289; Wm. M. McFarland, Rep., 1,494.
 Congress, J. J. Ryan, Dem., 2,295; J. P. Dolliver, Rep., 1,485.
 Auditor, T. J. Rasp, Dem., 2,295; N. L. Hunt, Rep., 1,499.
 Clerk, P. A. Schlemberger, Dem., 2,336; Benjamin Heath, Rep., 1,444.
 Recorder, W. W. Cushman, Dem., 2,325; H. P. Simmon, Rep., 1,466.
 Attorney, R. Shaw Van, Dem., 2,290; D. L. Boynton, Rep., 1,504.
 Supervisors, Charles Wenzel, Dem., 2,310; Velie Sowles, Rep., 1,475.

1893.

Governor, Horace Boies, Dem., 1,815; Frank D. Jackson, Rep., 1,269.
 Senator, Charles Bullock, Dem., 1,578; Rudolph Lehfeldt, Rep., 1,449; J. L. Bartholomew, Pop., 167.
 Representative, August Schultz, Dem., 1,677; W. B. Evans, Rep., 1,419.
 Treasurer, A. B. Lorenzen, Dem., 1,672; E. T. Cochran, Rep., 1,417.
 Sheriff, Thomas Fitzgibbons, Dem., 1,470; S. W. Seymour, Rep., 1,690.
 Superintendent, Henry Kelly, Dem., 1,631; J. L. Richardson, Rep., 1,566.
 Surveyor, Thomas Griffin, Dem., 1,662; Frank Woolston, Rep., 1,459.
 Coroner, J. H. Clough, Dem., 1,705; Dr. Ed Darling, Rep., 1,404.
 Supervisors, Dan McGrath, Dem., 1,641; Fred Jepsen, Dem., 1,718; Emil Schroeder, Rep., 1,415; B. F. Sherman, Rep., 1,362.

Note: At this election the vote of Charter Oak and Union townships was not counted on account of irregularities in making returns. The total vote on the head of the ticket, including vote from these townships was Boies, 2,120; Jackson, 1,515.

1894.

Secretary State, Wm. McFarland, Rep., 1,771; H. F. Dale, Dem., 2,007.
 Congress, J. T. Baker, Dem., 2,099; J. P. Dolliver, Rep., 1,830.
 Auditor, John T. Carey, Dem., 2,053; W. B. Evans, Rep., 1,888.
 Clerk, E. Kruger, Dem., 2,098; A. Helsley, Rep., 1,883.
 Recorder, C. H. Langbehn, Dem., 1,914; N. L. Hunt, Rep., 1,955.
 Attorney, E. H. Swasey, Dem., 2,026; D. L. Boynton, Rep., 1,830.
 Supervisors, John White, Dem., 1,888; Joseph Pieper, Dem., 1,865; James Maynard, Rep., 1,875; C. F. Rothe, Rep., 1,958. •

1895.

Governor, W. T. Babb, Dem., 2,019; F. M. Drake, Rep., 1,653.
 Representative, Charles Wenzel, Dem., 1,882; J. F. Grote, Rep., 1,928.
 Treasurer, A. B. Lorenzen, Dem., 2,225; E. T. Cochran, Rep., 1,711.
 Sheriff, D. McGrath, Dem., 1,528; S. W. Seymour, Rep., 2,387.
 Superintendent, T. J. Giblin, Dem., 1,755; W. T. Wright, Rep., 2,127.
 Surveyor, Thomas Griffin, Dem., 1,765; M. McHenry, Rep., 2,195.
 Coroner, J. H. Clough, Dem., 1,943; W. B. Evans, Rep., 1,889.
 Supervisors, F. Wettengill, Dem., 1,915; Otto Hink, Rep., 1,922.

1896.

Secretary of State, W. L. Carr, Dem., 2,445; G. L. Dobson, Rep., 2,154.
 Congress, J. B. Romans, Dem., 2,576; J. P. Dolliver, Rep., 2,014.
 Attorney, R. Shaw Van, Dem., 2,452; P. D. McMahon, Rep., 2,167.
 Auditor, John T. Carey, Dem., 2,572; C. A. Sykes, Rep., 2,041.
 Clerk, E. Kruger, Dem., 2,595; H. B. Johnson, Rep., 2,021.
 Recorder, O. M. Criswell, Dem., 2,445; N. L. Hunt, Rep., 2,156.
 Supervisors, Fred Jepsen, Dem., 2,382; W. W. Rhodenbaugh, Dem., 2,462;
 Clark White, Rep., 2,192; C. F. Dahnes, Rep., 2,122.

1897.

Governor, L. M. Shaw, Rep., 1,778; F. E. White, Dem., 2,507.
 Senator, J. S. Dewell, 1,838; T. R. Bolter, Dem., 2,405.
 Representative, J. F. Grote, Rep., 1,870; Theo. Blume, Dem., 2,394.
 Treasurer, A. B. Lorenzen, Dem., 2,322; Z. T. Nixon, Rep., 1,990.
 Sheriff, H. Bell, Dem., 2,403; W. J. McAhren, Rep., 1,898.
 Superintendent, A. G. Myers, Dem., 2,321; W. T. Wright, Rep., 1,985.
 Surveyor, Henry Huntington, Dem., 2,238; Morris McHenry, Rep., 2,056.
 Coroner, J. H. Clough, Dem., 2,392; A. C. Phillips, Rep., 1,874.
 Supervisors, Jno. White, Dem., 2,370; G. W. Tangle, Dem., 2,380; J. W.
 Maynard, Rep., 1,919; C. F. Rothe, Rep., 1,884.

1898.

Sec'y. State, G. T. Dobson, Rep., 1,740; C. R. Porter, Dem., 2,110.
 Congress, J. P. Dolliver, Rep., 1,707; E. Anderson, Dem., 2,143.
 Attorney, Wm. McLennan, Rep., 1,651; George L. Wright, Dem., 2,188.
 Auditor, A. F. Kadoch, Rep., 1,846; John T. Carey, Dem., 2,027.
 Clerk, W. E. Fishel, Rep., 1,650; E. Kruger, Dem., 2,209.
 Recorder, J. L. Ainsworth, Rep., 1,573; O. M. Criswell, Dem., 2,279.
 Coroner, A. C. Phillips, Rep., 1,665; M. N. Smith, Dem., 2,166.
 Supervisors, Otto Hink, Rep., 1,683; Fred Gegax, Dem., 2,150.

1899.

Governor, L. M. Shaw, Rep., 1,953; F. E. White, Dem., 2,252.
 Representative, Theo. Blume, Dem., 2,144; J. J. McWilliams, Rep., 2,024.

Treasurer, Theo. Kuhl, Dem., 2,288; C. E. Price, Rep., 1,873.
Sheriff, H. Bell, Dem., 2,381; A. C. Beers, Rep., 1,783.
Superintendent, A. G. Myers, Dem., 2,356; E. S. Plimpton, Rep., 1,797.
Attorney, S. V. O'Hare, Dem., 2,250; Cyrus Beard, Rep., 1,895.
Surveyor, H. Huntington, Dem., 2,214; M. McHenry, Rep., 1,950.
Coroner, M. N. Smith, Dem., 2,237; W. B. Evans, Rep., 1,893.
Supervisors, W. W. Rhodenbaugh, Dem., 2,232; J. R. Brocklesby, Rep., 1,904; William Flaherty, Dem., 2,099; Gus Rube, Rep., 2,008.

1900.

President, McKinley, Rep., 2,268; Bryan, Dem., 2,578.
Congress, Conner, Rep., 2,262; Robert F. Dale, Dem., 2,521.
Auditor, N. L. Hunt, Rep., 2,173; M. J. Collins, Dem., 2,649.
Clerk, A. F. Kadoch, Rep., 2,191; F. Faul, Dem., 2,610.
Recorder, H. K. Harthun, Rep., 2,118; O. M. Criswell, Dem., 2,675.
Attorney, T. W. Bittle, Rep., 2,171; S. V. O'Hare, Dem., 2,619.
Supervisors, John Huie, Rep., 2,167; James Maynard, Rep., 2,187; H. C. Schroeder, Dem., 2,622; Chas. Molter, Dem., 2,605.

1901.

Governor, A. B. Cummins, Rep., 1,951; T. J. Phillips, Dem., 1,931.
Representative, Hugh Langan, Rep., 1,995; W. A. Davie, Dem., 1,917.
Senator, E. L. Hogue, Rep., 1,879; John T. Carey, Dem., 2,045.
Treasurer, Theo. Kuhl, Dem., 2,066; Henry Schmidt, Rep., 1,818.
Sheriff, Henry Bell, Dem., 1,989; M. P. Ryan, Rep., 1,923.
Superintendent, C. W. Von Coelln, Rep., 2,013; A. G. Myers, Dem., 1,875.
Surveyor, Morris McHenry, Rep., 2,067; H. Huntington, Dem., 1,835.
Coroner, W. B. Evans, Rep., 1,980; H. H. Klinker, Dem., 1,904.
Supervisors, John G. Smith, Rep., 1,996; Fred Gegax, Dem., 1,893.

1902.

Secretary of State, W. B. Martin, Rep., 1,844; Richard Burke, Dem., 2,044.
Congress, J. P. Conner, Rep., 1,958; K. Faltison, Dem., 1,947.
Representative, J. I. Gibson, Rep., 1,819; W. A. Davie, Dem., 2,103.
Auditor, M. J. Collins, Dem., 2,306; James Brink, Rep., 86.
Clerk, E. E. Clauson, Rep., 1,685; F. Faul, Dem., 2,240.
Recorder, C. M. Russell, Rep., 1,858; James McKim, Dem., 2,056.
Attorney, P. J. Klinker, Rep., 1,972; S. V. O'Hare, Dem., 1,944.
Supervisors, G. B. Goin, Rep., 1,754; H. Koenekamp, Rep., 1,804; R. J. Dieter, Rep., 1,820; Jno. Cook, Dem., 2,144; Thomas Ahart, Dem., 2,082; John Holland, Dem., 2,056.
For courthouse, 2,165; against courthouse, 1,697.

1903.

Governor, A. B. Cummins, Rep., 1,854; J. B. Sullivan, Dem., 2,150.
Representative, E. Darling, Rep., 1,885; W. A. Davie, Dem., 2,100.

Treasurer, John Rohwer, Rep., 1,741; Theo. Kuhl, Dem., 2,286.
 Sheriff, W. J. McAhren, Rep., 1,954; Thomas R. Meehan, Dem., 2,067.
 Superintendent, C. W. Von Coelln, Rep., 1,904; F. L. Hoffman, Dem., 2,093.
 Surveyor, Morris McHenry, Rep., 2,038; A. C. Butterworth, Dem., 1,977.
 Coroner, W. B. Evans, Rep., 1,933; Dr. R. Fuester, Dem., 2,045.
 Supervisors, Charles Schmidt, Rep., 1,846; Jacob B. Bill, Rep., 1,808; H. C. Schroeder, Dem., 2,156; C. H. Molter, Dem., 2,173.

1904.

Secretary of State, W. B. Martin, Rep., 2,456; C. A. Dickson, Dem., 2,053.
 Congress, J. P. Conner, Rep., 2,462; W. I. Brannigan, Dem., 2,019.
 Auditor, Ed Theobald, Rep., 2,282; M. J. Collins, Dem., 2,236.
 Clerk, Claus Pahl, Rep., 2,265; F. Faul, Dem., 2,239.
 Recorder, M. L. Houlihan, Rep., 2,355; James McKim, Dem., 2,153.
 Attorney, P. J. Klinker, Rep., 2,561; M. O'Connor, Dem., 1,967.
 Supervisors, Henry Maynard, Rep., 2,398; John Holland, Dem., 2,137.

1905—NO ELECTION.

1906.

Governor, A. B. Cummins, Rep., 1,752; C. A. Porter, Dem., 2,451.
 Congress, J. P. Conner, Rep., 1,976; John C. Butler, Dem., 2,036.
 Representative, C. H. White, Rep., 1,979; H. C. Schroeder, Dem., 2,094.
 Senator, P. D. McMahon, Rep., 2,035; W. C. Whiting, Dem., 2,051.
 Auditor, E. Theobald, Rep., 1,984; M. J. Collins, Dem., 2,225.
 Treasurer, W. G. Johnson, Rep., 1,728; Louie Evers, Dem., 2,468.
 Clerk, Claus Pohl, Rep., 1,887; F. Faul, Dem., 2,275.
 Recorder, M. L. Houlihan, Rep., 1,877; W. E. Terry, Dem., 2,256.
 Superintendent, L. A. Conahan, Rep., 1,712; F. L. Hoffman, Dem., 2,429.
 Sheriff, R. C. Meisner, Rep., 1,917; Thomas Meehan, Dem., 2,252.
 Attorney, P. J. Klinker, Rep., 2,207; R. Shaw Van, Dem., 1,990.
 Surveyor, Morris McHenry, Rep., 2,335; H. Huntington, Dem., 1,824.
 Coroner, J. A. Thompson, Rep., 1,974; William Byrnes, Dem., 2,124.
 Supervisors, H. Schultz, Rep., 1,899; Thomas Carey, Rep., 1,974; Hans Baeth, Dem., 2,208; C. H. Molter, Dem., 2,150; R. H. Sweet, Rep., 1,954; F. Woolston, Rep., 1,871; Thomas Ahart, Dem., 2,164; John Cook, Dem., 2,230; Henry Maynard, Rep., 1,973; John Holland, Dem., 2,121.

1908.

President, Rep., 2,169; Dem., 2,322.
 Congress, F. P. Woods, Rep., 1,935; Montague Hakes, Dem., 2,303.
 Representative, S. B. McGarvey, Rep., 1,997; H. C. Schroeder, Dem., 2,263.
 Auditor, J. H. Hink, Rep., 1,833; M. J. Collins, Dem., 2,492.
 Clerk, E. F. Tucker, Rep., 1,893; F. Faul, Dem., 2,468.

Sheriff, A. D. Randall, Rep., 1,771; H. J. Cummings, Dem., 2,609.
Recorder, P. J. Martens, Rep., 1,764; W. E. Terry, Dem., 2,538.
Attorney, P. J. Klinker, Rep., 2,454; George Richardson, Dem., 1,897.
Superintendent, W. C. Van Ness, Rep., 1,899; F. L. Hoffman, Dem., 2,441.
Surveyor, Morris McHenry, Rep., 2,418; Arthur Butterworth, Dem., 1,905.
Coroner, F. A. Barrows, Rep., 1,879; W. M. Byrnes, Dem., 2,360.
Supervisors, 1909—Gustav Buesing, Rep., 2,057; Otto Huebner, Rep., 2,080;
Thomas Ahart, Dem., 2,225; J. T. Carey, Dem., 2,148.
Supervisors, 1910—Thomas Carey, Rep., 2,053; F. Gronan, Rep., 1,998;
Hans Baeth, Dem., 2,221; John Hagge, Dem., 2,134.

1910.

Governor, B. F. Carroll, Rep., 1,611; C. R. Porter, Dem., 2,436.
Congress, F. P. Woods, Rep., 2,000; No opposition.
Senator, C. F. Kuehnle, Rep., 1,814; E. L. Crow, Dem., 2,136.
Representative, C. H. White, Rep., 1,766; Edward Downey, Dem., 2,097.
Auditor, W. F. Staller, Rep., 1,451; M. J. Collins, Dem., 2,534.
Treasurer, George S. Selander, Rep., 1,322; Louie Evers, Dem., 2,642.
Clerk, H. T. Bliesman, Rep., 1,439; F. Faul, Dem., 2,520.
Recorder, C. P. Lorenzen, Rep., 1,945; W. E. Terry, Dem., 2,010.
Attorney, P. J. Klinker, Rep., 2,242; J. E. Shaw Van, Dem., 1,787.
Coroner, William Byrnes, Dem., 2,604; No opposition.
Supersors, 1911—F. E. Glasscock, Rep., 1,513; John Holland, Dem., 2,300.
Supervisors, 1912—A. L. Dunham, Rep., 1,529; F. R. Shirtcliff, Rep., 1,761;
John T. Carey, Dem., 2,350; Ed Ebert, Dem., 1,947.
County Home, for, 2,156; against, 1,272.

CHAPTER XIV.

LEGISLATIVE, JUDICIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL HISTORY.

For the following accurate history of Crawford county in its various functions as a member of different legislative, judicial and congressional districts, we are indebted to the careful research made by Mr. Wm. H. Fleming, of Des Moines. A man whom we consider the best informed as to the history of Iowa of any man in the state. Mr. Fleming has carefully gone over the records of the state in reference to Crawford county and the following are the results of his investigations.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY.

The legislature that created Crawford a county put it in an extensive representative district, comprising about all the Missouri slope, including the counties of Ringgold, Union, Adair, Audubon, Carroll, Sac, Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, and those to the westward. Its representative in the Fourth General Assembly was Joseph L. Sharp. Crawford did not take part in this election.

Fifth General Assembly.—The county was in a much smaller district in area, the counties of Audubon, Pottawattamie, Cass, Adair and those to the Southward having been detached, the remaining counties now constituting the 42d district, which was represented by Thomas N. Neely.

Sixth General Assembly.—Crawford had now gotten into a senatorial district: that is, along with twenty other counties, including all in the 42d district above, and those of Calhoun, Pocahontas, Palo Alto, and Emmet besides, it was hitched on to the 12th Senate district, which in the previous session, consisted entirely of the county of Pottawattamie, which county had in 1854 elected James D. Test, of Council Bluffs to the senate. Thus, these counties were represented in the senate by a man with whose election they had nothing to do. It is true, however, that there were few if any electors within their limits. The representative district, which was now the 16th and composed of the same counties as the 12th senatorial, excepting Pottawattamie, was represented by N. G. Wyatt.

Seventh General Assembly.—The twelfth district, unchanged, had for senator, William H. M. Pusey, of Council Bluffs. The fourteenth representative district, now composed of Pottawattamie, Shelby, Crawford, Ida, Cherokee,

O'Brien, Osceola, and the counties to the westward, was represented by Samuel H. Casady of Council Bluffs.

Eighth General Assembly.—The counties of Greene, Webster, Humboldt, Kossuth, and those to the westward, composed of the 32d senate district, which was represented by John F. Duncombe, of Fort Dodge. This time, Crawford was represented by two senators, it having taken part in the election of Mr. Pusey, who now was in the second half of his senatorial term. The representative district—the 45th—was composed of Crawford, Monona, Carroll and Greene, and was represented by J. W. Denison, the county now having one of its own citizens in the general assembly. From this time, the number of organized counties in a representative district was limited to four at the most. Under the constitution as amended in due form a few years ago, every county has at least one.

Ninth General Assembly.—The 32d senate district was still represented by John F. Duncombe. It was composed as before, with the exception of Green, while Harrison was added. Crawford was, with Monona, Harrison and Shelby, in the 64th representative district, and represented by William W. Fuller, of Magnolia.

Tenth General Assembly.—The 32d senate district, with the counties of Shelby, Audubon, Winnebago, Hancock and Wright added, became the 43d which was represented by George W. Bassett, of Fort Dodge, Republican. The representative district, the 62d, was made up of Crawford, Carroll, Monona, and Sac, and was represented by Addison Olliver, of Onawa.

Eleventh General Assembly.—The county was in the 45th senate district along with Harrison, Shelby, Audubon, Ida, Cherokee, O'Brien, Osceola, and counties to the westward. With Addison Olliver in the senate. Now again Crawford was represented in the senate by two persons in whose election it had participated. Monona, Sac and Ida were with Crawford in the 62d district whose member was S. J. Comfort, of Denison.

Twelfth General Assembly.—The senate district now the 46th, was the same as at the preceding session, except that Greene had been transferred, Senator Ollver continuing. The 63d district—Crawford, Monona, and Carroll was represented by Stephen Tillson, of Onawa.

Thirteenth General Assembly.—The senate district, now the 48th, with Carroll county dropped out, had Charles Atkins of Onawa for senator, Crawford, Carroll, Monona, and Ida were the 69th district, with John D. Miracle of Denison, to represent it.

Fourteenth General Assembly.—The 48th district was the same except Audubon was dropped, Senator Atkins continuing. The 40th representative district had Crawford, Monona, Audubon, and Shelby, with Charles G. Perkins of Onawa, representative.

Fifteenth General Assembly.—Crawford was put into the 49th senate district, along with Greene, Carroll, Audubon, Shelby, and Guthrie, for which John J. Russell, of Jefferson, had been elected senator two years before. The 41st representative district had Crawford, Monona, Ida, and Cherokee, with Edmund B. Baird of Willow Dale, Ida county to represent it.

Sixteenth General Assembly.—Samuel D. Nichols, of Guthrie county, was chosen senator, the district remaining unchanged. The 41st representative district unchanged, was represented by George Rae, of Dowville.

Seventeenth General Assembly.—The counties of Crawford, Harrison, Monona, Ida and Sac were constituted the 34th district, which elected Augustin W. Ford, of Magnolia, to the senate. Now again was the county interested in two members of the senate. Crawford, Ida and Monona were made the 71st district represented by Elijah Peake, of Onawa.

Eighteenth General Assembly.—Districts and senator were unchanged, and Henry C. Laub, of Denison, was representative.

Nineteenth General Assembly.—Thomas M. C. Logan of Logan, was chosen from the unchanged districts, to the senate. Robert T. Shearer, of Ida Grove, was elected to the house.

Twentieth General Assembly.—The county was put with Woodbury and Monona in the 46th district, which chose Charles E. Whiting of Whiting, for senator. The county now had its own separate representative, the first being Charles Bullock of Denison. And again there were two senators in whose election the county had taken part.

Twenty-first General Assembly.—Senator unchanged. I. T. Roberts, of Denison, representative.

Twenty-second General Assembly.—Crawford was put into the 34th senate district, the other counties being Harrison and Monona, for which Lemuel R. Bolter, of Logan, had been elected senator two years before, representative William A. Davie of Dunlap.

Twenty-third General Assembly.—Same in both houses as in the 22d.

Twenty-fourth General Assembly.—Senator unchanged. August Schultz, Denison, representative.

Twenty-fifth General Assembly.—The 34th district, which has remained unchanged to the present time, had Rudolph Lehfeldt, of Denison, in the senate, August Schultz was again in the house.

Twenty-sixth General Assembly.—No change in senator. John F. Grote, West Side, representative.

Twenty-seventh General Assembly.—Lemuel R. Bolter reappears in the senate. Theodore C. Blume, of Denison, is representative.

Twenty-eighth General Assembly.—No change in either house.

Twenty-ninth General Assembly.—Senator, Ernest L. Hogue, of Blencoe. Representative, Hugh Langan, West Side.

Thirteenth General Assembly.—Same senator. William A. Davie, Dunlap, representative.

Thirty-first General Assembly.—Same in both houses. These two legislatures were really one body, and should not have been separately numbered.

Thirty-second General Assembly.—Senator, Will C. Whiting, of Whiting, Henry C. Schroeder, Schleswig, representative.

Thirty-third General Assembly.—Same in both houses.

Thirty-fourth General Assembly.—Edward L. Crow, Mapleton, senator, Edward Downey, Breda, in the house.

According to the foregoing record, the county has at three sessions been a part of senatorial districts, which has ready-made senators. On the other hand, at four regular sessions it has been interested in two senators in whose election it has taken a part.

JUDICIAL DISTRICTS.

At the session at which the county was created, it was made a part of the sixth district, which itself was a creation of the Third General Assembly. In April, 1851, James Sloan, an eccentric character of Pottawattamie, was chosen judge of the district. He gave up the position the following year and was succeeded by Allen A. Bradford, of Fremont county, who was yet the judge when the county went into the new seventh district. In April, 1853, Samuel Riddle of Pottawattamie county, was elected judge. It is not at all probable that either Sloan or Bradford ever held court in Crawford county. Indeed, it may certainly be said neither ever did. Judge Riddle, therefore, was the first judge who ever held court in the county. January 1, 1859, the county became a part of the fourth judicial district. Its first judge was Asahel W. Hubbard, of Woodbury county, and Orlando C. Howe, was the first district attorney, that being then a new office. In 1863, Isaac Pendleton, also of Woodbury, became judge with Henry Ford, of Harrison, district attorney. Four years later, Mr. Ford became the district judge, and Orson Rice, of Dickinson county, district attorney. In 1870, Judge Ford, was reelected, and Charles H. Lewis, of Cherokee chosen district attorney.

In 1868, the county was put into the first circuit of the fourth judicial district, of which Addison Olliver, of Monona county, was made circuit judge. He, with Judge Ford and Judge James M. Snyder, of Humboldt county, constituted the short-lived appellate court, of 1869-1871.

In 1872, the new thirteenth judicial district took Crawford and the other counties out of the fourth district. Of this district, Joseph R. Reed, of the county of Pottawattamie, was the first judge, a position which he held until his elevation to the supreme court, in 1883. Thomas R. Stockton, of Fremont county, was the first circuit judge of the thirteenth and Hiram K. McJunkin, of Mills county, the first district attorney. In 1877, Charles F. Loofbourow, of Cass county, took Judge Stockton's place on the circuit bench and held it until he was made district judge on the elevation of Judge Reed to the supreme court. Then Joseph Lyman, of Council Bluffs, was appointed to succeed him. In 1884, James Perry Conner of Crawford county was chosen circuit judge. In 1876, Albert R. Anderson, of Fremont county, was elected district attorney. In 1880, James P. Conner was chosen. In 1884, Andrew B. Thornell, of Fremont, was elected.

In 1887, the districts were reorganized, and Crawford became a part of the sixteenth judicial district then just created. Its judges have been: James P. Conner, of Crawford, 1887-1890. J. H. Macomber, Ida county, 1887-1890. Charles D. Goldsmith, of Sac, and George W. Paine, of Carroll, 1891-1894. Samuel M. Elwood, of Sac, 1895-1902. Zala A. Church, of Greene, 1895-1910.



FORKS OF THE ROYER NEAR DENTON

Frank M. Powers, of Carroll, 1903 to the present time. Marion E. Hutchinson, of Calhoun, elected in 1910.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS.

At the time of the erection of the county of Crawford, the territory thereof, was a part of the second congressional district, which was represented by Lincoln Clarke of Dubuque, a Democrat. At the general election of 1852, John P. Cook of Scott county, was elected over Clarke. Mr. Cook was a Whig. In August, 1854, James Thorington of Davenport, was chosen to congress from the district. He was a member of the famous Know-Nothing order, and had its nomination, and also that of the temperance advocates, the question of prohibition then being prominently before the people. He defeated at the polls, Stephen Hempstead, then governor of the state. In 1856, Timothy Davis, of Elkader, republican, was elected, defeating Shepherd Leffler, who had been a member ten years before. In 1858, William Van Deve, of Dubuque, was elected, over William E. Leffingwell, and in 1860, over Ben M. Samuels. Now, the big second district is cut up into several, Crawford being put into the sixth. In 1862, this district elected Asahel W. Hubbard, of Sioux City, over John F. Duncombe, in 1864, over L. Chapman and in 1866 over James D. Thompson, of Hardin. Charles Pomeroy, of Fort Dodge, was chosen in 1868, over Charles A. L. Roszell, of Butler county. In 1870, Jackson Orr, of Boone, was chosen over Chas. C. Smeltzer. The number of representatives Iowa had become entitled to having increased from six to nine, Crawford county was put in the new ninth district, of which Jackson Orr was the first representative, defeating John F. Duncombe at the polls. In 1874, Addison Olliver of Onawa, was chosen over Charles E. Whiting, and in 1876, he was chosen over Samuel Rees. In 1878, Cyrus C. Carpenter, of Fort Dodge, defeated Lucius Q. Hoggart. Two years later he was reelected, his defeated opponents were one Guthrie and Daniel Campbell. Iowa making another gain of two members, Crawford was continued in the ninth district for awhile. In 1882, William H. M. Pusey, of Council Bluffs, Democrat, was elected over Albert R. Anderson, Republican, and Hatton, a Populist nominee. In 1884, Joseph Lyman, of Council Bluffs, Republican, was chosen over Mr. Pusey. Thus closed the career in congress of a Democratic representative of the county of Crawford, the only instance of the kind since the county began to have settlers. In 1886, the county was transferred to the tenth district, for which Adoniram J. Holmes, of Boone, was reelected, defeating Mr. Wilmot. Jonathan P. Dolliver of Fort Dodge was elected representative in congress in 1888, over J. A. O. Yeomen, in 1890 over I. L. Woods, in 1890 over J. J. Ryan, and John E. Anderson, in 1894, over T. C. Baker, in 1896 over John B. Romans, and in 1898 over Edwin Anderson. Resigning in 1900 in order to enter the senate, he was succeeded by James P. Conner for both the 56th and 57th Congresses, Robert F. Dale being his defeated opponent. In 1902, Judge Conner was re-elected, Kasper Faltinson being defeated. He was again chosen in 1904 over W. J. Brannegan, and in 1906 over John B. Butler. In 1908 Frank P. Woods was chosen over Montague Hakes. In 1910 he was re-elected substantially without opposition.

CHAPTER XV.

BEGINNINGS OF DENISON.

Before Denison was located Crawford county had been settled for five or six years. There was a flourishing community at Mason's Grove, a little store had been established at what is now Deloit, and along the Boyer at that place there were a saw-mill and a grist-mill. There were settlements in the groves along the creeks and rivers; at Dunham's Grove, on the East Boyer, at Coon Grove, in the southwest part of the county; and at Three Bee Tree Grove. There was also what was later known as Fort Purdy, in what was called the Burnt Woods. All these had been established before the town of Denison had its inception. The population of the county, judged by its voting strength, must have been about one hundred and fifty, and the movement was already under way for the organization of a separate county government. In fact the first government had been established with its seat at the residences of the county officers, wherever they might chance to live. Mr. Wicks tells us that he passed over the site of Denison in going on county business to see Judge Bassett, in Coon Grove, and that in 1855, from the hills where the business district stands, there was not a house in sight.

Denison was a boom town. It did not grow from the natural selection of the settlers themselves, as did Deloit and Old Kiron, and Dow City, but its location was arbitrarily fixed by the representative of a company of eastern capitalists, who resolved upon the exploitation of some portion of western Iowa and who fixed upon this as a desirable location. This company, the Providence Western Land Company, was formed as a result of the promotion efforts of Mr. J. W. Denison. He interested a large number of men in the city of Providence, Rhode Island, and through his efforts the company was formed. The government had given the surviving veterans of the war of 1812 and of the war with Mexico the right to preempt one hundred and sixty acres, each, of the unoccupied lands in western states. These veterans had the right to dispose of these lands and many sold their land warrants at sixty cents per acre. It was the purpose of this company to get these old soldiers to file upon lands in a body, and then to purchase them from the original owners. For this purpose we are told that the sum of fifty-one thousand dollars was subscribed. Claims were filed and the money used to purchase lands, Crawford and Harrison counties being selected as the scene of activities for the company. It was

evidently the same old story with which we are familiar today, by which the lands of a score of states have been exploited by pretentious advertising, by flamboyant circulars, and by rather rash promises of quick and golden returns. Many of our older settlers claim to remember the pictures of an imaginary Denison, a larger city than it is today, with wharves, and with steamboats riding at anchor upon the broad bosom of the Boyer.

After the purchase of the original tract of land it became necessary to found a town. The present site of Denison was chosen with considerable sagacity. It was within one mile of the center of the county and might therefore make an acceptable location for a county seat. It was at the forks of the Boyer and the East Boyer, affording the timber for fuel and for building, which was an essential in those days. It was on the line of a proposed transcontinental railroad, and the configuration of the country made it apparent that a railroad would at some time be built along the easy grades of the Boyer valley. The proposed town was located sixty-five miles from Council Bluffs, seventy-five miles from Fort Dodge, ninety miles from Sioux City, and one hundred and twenty-five miles from Des Moines. These towns were already well established and it was thought that the new town, being in the very heart of western Iowa and almost equi-distant from these cities, would have a large trade territory. It is said that it was at first proposed to lay out the town about one mile east of its present location, and it must be confessed that in point of grades and for the general work of city building this would have been a better location. Mr. J. W. Denison, who acted as the agent of the Providence Western Land Company in all these matters, was something of an idealist and a dreamer, as men who conceive large projects must be. It is very possible that in his mind's eye he saw the Denison that was pictured, the busy streets and warehouses, the commerce carried upon the waters of the Boyer. Be that as it may, he came to this section of Iowa with the intent not only to purchase this large tract of land, but also to found a city. It must be conceded that he approached the matter with much good judgment and foresightedness. Through his direction the beautiful courthouse square was selected and it, together with the courthouse building, was donated to the county upon the selection of this as the county seat. Parks were laid out, a market square was provided in the original plat, and the streets were wide, and for the most part well laid out. The fact that Denison was a well advertised, well known and well established village long before all the towns which we might mention in this part of Iowa, was due to the work of J. W. Denison and the Providence Western Land Company.

At this place, we can do no better than to let Mr. Denison tell in his own words, written in 1875, the story of the founding of Denison.

"In the fall of 1855, the undersigned formed a land company in Providence, R. I., called the Providence Western Land Company, with the view of investing in government lands at some points in Western Iowa, where a village or town could be built up in connection with the farming interests. It was designed to secure about a township, or 23,040 acres of land as a basis of operations; and for this purpose a fund of \$31,000 was advanced, and to this was soon added \$20,000, making a capital of \$51,000 for the work.



OAKLAND CEMETERY, DENISON



CITY PARK, DENISON



"After a careful survey of the field, thro' central, southern and western Iowa, it was decided to pitch our tent, permanently, in Crawford county, being central in location and sufficiently distant from any place of importance to give room for healthful growth, while the soil, streams and timber gave evidence of value equal to any, and far exceeding many of the counties in the State. The four diagonal points of notice, of which this was the center, were Council Bluffs, 65 miles southwest of us; Sioux City, 75 miles northwest; Des Moines, 100 miles southeast; and Ft. Dodge, 75 miles northeast. A state road from Des Moines to Sioux City ran through this county, as did also a road from Council Bluffs to Ft. Dodge; and a dotted line on the maps of that day indicated the line of railroad some day, east and west through the center of this tier of counties, which is the exact center line of the State to a mile.

"The population of the county was not to exceed two hundred; about half of them being in and around Mason's Grove and the others in and around the smaller groves in the southern part of the county, in both places along the Boyer river and its tributaries. The center of the county was honored with about one family, located within about a mile and a half of the center. Some three miles further south were a few families and among them our honored County Judge, John R. Bassett.

"It was in this vacant center that we pitched our tent, at the junction of the Boyer rivers, for the proposed town site, within one mile and a half of the geographical center of the county, and secured some twenty thousand acres of land in its vicinity for the farming interests. As the county seat was not yet located, it was but natural that we should suggest to the locating commissioners appointed by the District Judge, that they consider the merits of this point among others, as the one designed by nature for the shire town of the county. They did so, and as the result the county seat was located where it has since remained and doubtless will continue, as long as the Boyer remains. This was in the spring of 1856, and in the same spring was that memorable Land Grant of Congress for aiding in the construction of four railroads through the State east and west, and one of them 'to run on the parallel of 42 degrees as near as practicable to the Missouri river.' As this line was directly through the center of Crawford county it was but natural to conclude that we were in luck—that we were 'in town.'

"By the way, the incident that resulted in the naming of the town might interest some inquisitive ones upon that topic. It was this: The commissioners having decided upon the location, and returned to the house of the County Judge for making out their report to the District Judge, had gone on with their preamble to the point of describing the location, and saying, 'Its name shall be—' at this point they stopped and began to suggest names. Finally, Mrs. Bassett, an invalid lady, confined to her bed and for years unable to walk, spoke up and said, 'Why not call it Denison?' 'Denison?' said they, 'yes, that is the name,' and immediately completed the sentence—'and its name shall be Denison.'

"To that much esteemed lady, therefore, Mrs. Bassett, who is still the same invalid, with the same Christian spirit of meekness that these twenty years have since witnessed, belongs the honor of naming the county seat of her adopted

county; and the Judge, her devoted husband, who was the chosen executive for six or eight years, still remains an honored servant to witness the growth of the town and of the county from the cradle to the beginning of manhood—the former from blank to a population of 1,200, the latter from 200 to 7,000, with every indication of increase beyond any of his most favorite dreams.

“There was with me in that early day R. W. Calkins, of Rock Island, Ill., who rambled with me days and nights over the bleak prairies, that dreary fall and winter; and when we brought up in this country we made our headquarters at Father Dobson’s in Mason’s grove, now Deloit, a town of his own making, and who, at that time, had the only saw and flouring mill within the distance of from forty to sixty miles in any direction, and the burr-stones of which he was said to carry in his side pockets to his house for dressing! When completed they would turn out from three to ten bushels of corn a day for the weary farmer who had hauled it for thirty or forty miles for that early staff of life—the gist of ‘hog and hominy.’ ”



J. W. DENISON
For whom the city was named

CHAPTER XVI.

LIFE OF J. W. DENISON.

Just at this point in our narrative we feel that there should be included an account of the life work of Mr. J. W. Denison, from whom our fair city takes its name. We have been most fortunate in being able to obtain an authentic sketch of Mr. Denison's life written for this history by Rev. A. M. Duboc, one of the first and most dearly beloved clergymen of our city, who now lives in honorable retirement at Oskaloosa, Iowa. Mr. Duboc has taken much pains to verify all the statements made, and the article which follows will have an added value to many of the older residents of Denison on account of the fact that it comes from the pen of one who was their spiritual guide and their ever constant friend.

SKETCH OF J. W. DENISON.

Written by Rev. A. M. Duboc.

Rev. Jesse W. Denison, the founder of the city of Denison, and from whom it takes its name, was born on a farm in Albany County, N. Y., April 9, 1818. He was the youngest of twelve children.

When he was old enough he was apprenticed to a shoemaker. But his thoughts and aspirations turned in a very different direction. He had a natural thirst for knowledge. Often while sitting at his bench he had a book fastened before him at which he glanced constantly while pegging away at his last. In this way he mastered by himself the "Third Part of Ray's Arithmetic."

Having been converted at the age of fifteen, and having joined the Rensselaerville Baptist Church, his thoughts turned toward the ministry. With this end in view, he entered Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., from which he graduated in 1844, and from which he subsequently received the degree of A. M. His theological course he took in Union Theological Seminary and at the Baptist Theological Seminary, Covington, Ky.

Immediately after his graduation, he was married to Miss Mary Winsor Briggs, daughter of Rev. Avery Briggs, in Schoharie, N. Y., in the year 1846, and immediately moved to his field of labor in Upper Alton, Ill. The residence in which he first went to housekeeping, just north of the college, was still standing less than ten years ago, just as he occupied it. But in December, 1847, he was compelled to resign by his wife's health which had been slowly failing all the time they were there. The year 1848 was apparently spent in New

York State and here, in December, their first child, Mary Louisa, was born. She is now the wife of Thomas Hooker, of Spokane, Wash. manager of the "Spokane Daily Chronicle."

Apparently in the year 1849, he accepted a call to the church in Rock Island, Ill., his wife's people moving there also about the same time. During his pastorate he built the first Baptist meeting house ever built in Rock Island, and while there in 1851, their second child was born, Julia P., now wife of Rev. A. M. Duboc, of Oskaloosa, Iowa.

In November, 1852, he accepted a call to the church in Brimfield, Ill., but after a year his own health began to fail, and it became evident that he must seek a more active, outdoor life.

Having been deeply impressed with the vast possibilities of this great Mississippi Valley, his thoughts turned toward the forming of a development company. He finally succeeded in interesting Eastern capitalists, and organized the Providence Western Land Company of which he was made the agent.

In the fall of 1855, he came to Iowa and entered over 20,000 acres of land in Crawford and Harrison counties for the Providence Western Land Company.

Having selected his land, and having done all that could be done before spring, he returned to spend the winter with his family in Rock Island, where his wife was failing fast. He had only gone as far on his way as Des Moines, when the distressing news of her death was abruptly broken to him. With a heavy heart he continued his journey to see his little girls. He spent most of the winter in Rock Island and attending to business in the East.

Having made the best of provision for the care of his children by his wife's people, in the spring of 1856, he returned to Crawford county.

When he first drove over the spot where the city of Denison now stands it had as yet been untouched by civilization; but was still the home of the coyote and over it occasionally roamed the deer and flew immense flocks of prairie chickens and other wild fowls. But he was at once impressed with its eligible situation, at the junction of two broad and fertile valleys, (certain in the near future to be occupied by railroads) by its slightly location and the broad expanse of prairie it commanded; and he made up his mind that nature herself had marked this out as the point for some future city. Here he proceeded to plat his town and build a lodging house, known as the Denison House, on what is now Tremont street and which was still standing a few years ago. He also built a little store diagonally across the street and several houses for the accommodation of settlers.

One of the first things Mr. Denison did was to secure the county seat for the new town. When the commissioners came to locate the county seat they met to draw up the papers at Judge Bassett's, who lived in a log house two or three miles southwest of Denison. At the same meeting the question of a name for the town came up and after considerable discussion Mrs. Bassett, who was an invalid, spoke from her bed and said: "Why not call it Denison?" The suggestion seemed to please every one and the name was immediately adopted.

Mr. Denison had unbounded faith in the future of Denison and Crawford county, and his optimism has been amply justified by the wonderful develop-



FARM SCENE IN CRAWFORD COUNTY



HIGH WATER ON EAST BOYER, DENISON

ment which that country has enjoyed. Through his numerous acquaintances he was enabled to induce many families to start in business in Denison or buy land in the county.

Many, however, are the hardships of the first pioneers in any country. This is terribly illustrated by the following story which Mr. Denison often told. Late in the winter of 1856-7 western Iowa was swept by one of the worst blizzards ever known. There was a young man at that time who had come out with Mr. Denison, named Jake Seagraves, son of one of the officers of the Providence Western Land Company. In the afternoon when the blizzard was at its height he took a notion to go over and see the occupant of the little store already mentioned. In spite of warning he could not believe a man could be lost in going less than a block. He reached the store in safety, but when he did not return all the men in the Denison House fastened themselves together with a rope and went to look for him. When they got to the store they found he had left some time before. They, with difficulty, succeeded in reaching the Denison House, but were alarmed at finding he had not returned. It would have been idle to have gone out to look for him on the prairie as they might have passed within a few feet of each other without knowing it. So they fired revolvers and beat tin pans all night, but he did not appear. As Mr. Denison went out early the next morning, which broke clear and calm, something in the snow about a block away attracted his attention. It was Jake Seagraves. His body was entirely buried in the snow except his feet, in a vain attempt to keep them warm, he had kicked all night, which only had the effect of keeping them exposed and they were frozen solid.

As it became evident they must be amputated, and there was no surgeon anywhere around, Mr. Denison started for one with his team to Des Moines. But after going some ten miles, he found it would be utterly impossible to get through. His team was so injured breaking through the ice and floundering through the drifts they were unable to go any further. He was compelled to abandon them and send a man back for them as quick as he could, but both horses died subsequently as the result of their injuries and exposure. Deeply impressed with the feeling that he must secure a surgeon or perish in the attempt Mr. Denison started for Council Bluffs afoot. It was a terrible journey. His feet became so sore he was compelled to make himself moccasins of fur. But he was fortunate in meeting an army surgeon who accompanied him back to Denison and the operation was very skillfully performed and entirely successful.

It was not alone in the temporal affairs of the community that Mr. Denison was interested. He began at once to hold preaching services and in 1857 organized the Baptist church with sixteen members, and he continued to act as pastor for seven years. The weekly prayer meeting was held in private homes. The conveniences were not always the best. In one case, at least, the only light they had in the room proceeded from a rag fastened at one end to a button immersed in a saucer of grease. But the spirit was none the less earnest and the seed of much good was sown in these early meetings.

When the church was built he raised a large amount of money towards its erection among his friends in the East, and always remained the pastor's firmest

supporter. The church, though not large, was pleasant and convenient and at the time it was built was probably the finest church building in western Iowa.

August 3, 1859, Mr. Denison was married in Providence, R. I., to Miss Eliza B. Lewis, and immediately brought her with his two little girls to Denison. People did not cross Iowa in palace cars in those days. The family traveled by rail as far as Iowa City. From there the rest of the journey was performed in an emigrant wagon. From Jefferson to Carroll there was not even a trail and they were compelled to hire a guide. When they got within six or seven miles of Carroll, the guide thought he could safely leave them and return to Jefferson. He showed them a house a mile distant and told them that when they reached that house they would find a trail to Carroll. But they had gone but a short distance before the horses plunged into a slough, from which they were with great difficulty extricated. That house turned out to be vacant, but luckily a wagon with six men happened to pass by and rendered them help. They were thus enabled to go on their journey and by night reached Carroll, which did not then have more than a half dozen houses. Here they stayed all night and reached Denison the next evening. Mrs. Denison was young, handsome and enthusiastic and added much to the social life of the place.

By his second marriage he had four children: William S., now traveling salesman, of Des Moines, Iowa, Maria Louisa, now wife of William Matthews, assistant director of sales of the Dupont Powder Co., Wilmington, Del., Jesse W. who died in infancy, and Percy N., traveling salesman of the Dupont Powder Co., Columbus, Ohio.

In the fall of 1859, Mr. Denison was elected to the legislature and attended the regular session which met January, 1860, and also the special session in 1861 made necessary by the breaking out of the war, and took an active part in its proceedings.

During the winter of 1862 and 1863 Mr. Denison was dangerously ill and for weeks his life was despaired of. He recovered, however, but never fully regained his strength.

Unquestionably the most important event in the history of Denison was the coming of the main line of the North Western Railway. It came very near, however, being its ruin. The Providence Western Land Co. was not willing to comply with all the demands of the railroad, some of which they deemed extravagant. Consequently the railroad planned to locate their depot across the Boyer and lay out a new town. Had this been done, the next day property in Denison would not have been worth ten cents on the dollar, and the history of Boone would have been repeated in Crawford county. But the scheme becoming known, Mr. Denison immediately bought up all that land for the Providence Western Land Co., and the railroad was compelled to locate its depot just south of the town where it was most convenient for the citizens where it remained until the present more eligible and spacious location was secured.

The writer's acquaintance with Mr. Denison, and the city of Denison, began in 1873. The town was then emerging from its pioneer stage. McHenry's Bank had recently been built, Laub's store had just been commenced. The Baptist Church then stood just a little north of where the postoffice now stands. The

town did not extend more than two or three blocks east of Main street nor further north than Church street. The houses were mostly small, there being very few substantial residences as yet. Mr. Denison's house was a one-story and a half brick, corner of Franklin and Main streets, and was the last house north on Main street. Just west of Mr. Denison's lived Mr. W. A. McHenry and that house still stands, though it has been added to considerably. With the exception of the trees upon that hill and possibly the trees in the courthouse yard, the writer does not remember a tree anywhere large enough to give shade. Nevertheless, people coming from the east were much more likely to be impressed by the culture and progressiveness they found than by anything primitive in its appearance. Denison then had a population of about 800 and was enjoying a healthy growth. It was the trading center for a large section of country and was easily the most important point between Boone and Council Bluffs.

The day of cheap lands had not yet passed away, while the best improved farms near Denison might be held at \$40 or \$50 an acre. By going some distance from town good wild land could still be bought for about \$5, but it was being taken up fast.

Prairie fires around Denison were still frequent, the writer having never witnessed a prairie fire before thought it was a striking sight to see the fire as it swept over those hills south of town like a fiery line of battle, sometimes illuminating the whole town.

When my acquaintance with Mr. Denison began he was already broken down in health. He was suffering apparently from ulcerations of the stomach which for long spells at a time would not allow him to retain any nourishment. He had resigned the agency of the Providence Western Land Co. some time before, although he had a great deal of private business which required much of his time. At last his robust constitution gave way and after a long, lingering illness he suddenly passed away on October 2, 1881. His faith in God and the gospel remained unfailing to the last and death came to him as a blessed relief. His remains lie in Oakland cemetery in a family lot he had chosen years before and overlooking the city in which he felt such a vital interest.

Mr. Denison was a man of impressive personality and striking appearance. Any one having seen him once was not likely to ever forget him. He was above middle stature, black hair and beard, and a dark and penetrating eye. He was affable in manner, deliberate and self-poised. Few men ever saw him show marks of excitement, even under the greatest provocation. Stomach trouble usually renders a man sour and peevish, but it never broke the evenness of his temper. His years of pain he endured with a patience truly remarkable.

The effect of Mr. Denison's work and character will long be felt on the life of the city. As the first settler he exerted that plastic influence which naturally belongs to the pioneer. Instead of beginning by opening a saloon, he started as we have seen by preaching the gospel, and the families he drew into his new settlement were people, who like himself, believed in religion and education and in those things that make for the uplift of a community. Thus he gave an upward trend to the early life of the town which it has never lost, as is witnessed by its large churches and prosperous schools. "He being dead yet speaketh."

CHAPTER XVII.

EARLY DENISON DAYS.

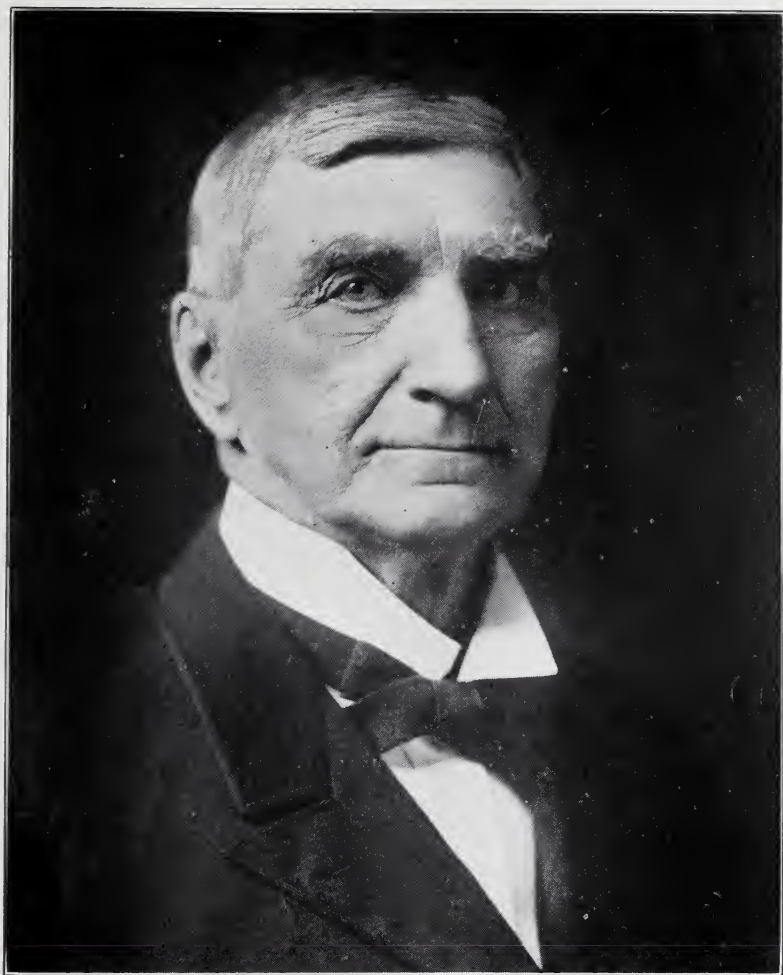
Mr. Denison kept steadily at work to bring about the realization of his dreams. He was active in directing the attention of oncoming settlers to the location of his new town. In this way he enlisted the cooperation of John B. Swain, Frank Reynolds, and Jacob Whittinger. The story of the coming of these three first permanent residents of Denison is well told by Mr. Thomas Dobson in his history. Mr. Dobson says:

"Later in the season of 1856 Jacob Whittinger, John B. Swain and Frank Reynolds came, and the history they give of their coming and settlement in the county is substantially as follows:

"In August, 1856, they left Dallas county in this state, to hunt new homes in the Northwest, passing up South Coon river, crossing Brushy Fork eleven miles above Gizelharts in Carroll county. Heading the Nishnabotny river they passed over seventy-five miles of the best natural road in the state, crossing only one small bridge in all that distance, and it was not over ten feet in width. The first night out they camped upon a hillside among some dwarf oaks. Reynolds set about to prepare some coffee for supper. Soon the tea kettle was boiling, the blaze having entirely enveloped the kettle in the brush fire; it was a puzzle to recover the kettle from the flames, having nothing at hand to extricate it with. Reynolds thought himself smart enough to remove it with such despatch that heat could have no effect, but the result was that the kettle went flying down the hill, scalding the green grass as it went, and Reynolds went off at right angles howling. A crisped hand and no sleep that night. 'This,' said he 'is my first camp life, and I am satisfied as to the loveliness of such life.'" Passing on they found in a little grove a Mr. Chapman and family, Mr. Slater and son and Mr. Vanvleit. They were here directed to Mason's Grove, but some of the party had some misgivings about going there, for they had heard that there were some persons residing there that belonged to a society generally known as Mormons, and they were afraid that their property would be unsafe among such a people, but the majority were for coming. Arriving at the Grove they kept a close watch upon their stock for some time, but losing none, they gradually lost all fears and were welcomed to the hospitality of the citizens. Here they found Rev. Mr. Denison and many others, stopping mostly with Mr. Goodrich a little south of the Grove. Messrs. Swain and Reynolds went down and

took a look at the place where the town of Denison now is. Not a wagon track was to be seen on the section. 'Far West,' they thought, as they looked in all directions to discover some living object to dispel the gloom of solitude, and when a deer was seen springing out of the tall grass that grew on those luxuriant Boyer bottom lands to the height of a man's head when on horseback, it seemed to them almost enchanting scenery. Over the hills to the west lay a broken country, hill and dale. To the southwest lay the lovely valley of the Boyer extending as far as the eye could see, and again up to the northeast bottom lands and groves of timber met the gaze of the astonished vision. Immediate arrangements were made for settling and the erection of a steam saw mill, and by October 1st the machinery was on the ground. A long shanty was erected near the site of the old Denison House, and a long hay bed was spread on the ground in one end and kitchen, parlor and bar room all in the other end—Jacob Whitmyer, proprietor, with the following names enrolled as boarders: Rev. J. W. Denison, George and Warren Calkens, William and George Beaty (carpenters), Jacob Seagrave, M. McHenry, F. Reynolds and J. B. Swain, and in honor to Mrs. Whitmyer we must say that we doubt whether a more noble or generous-hearted landlady ever graced so humble a tavern stand as this one. A good cook (Reynolds never tries to take the tea kettle off the fire now), never complaining, always cheerful, with a kind word for all her boarders as they came for their frugal meals. The Denison House was soon up and enclosed, believed to be the first frame house ever erected in Crawford county, but neither plastered nor ceiled, and all for the good reason that there was nothing in the country to do it with."

Having thus secured a boarding place for expected emigrants, and having building facilities established, Mr. Denison next directed his attention to the establishment of a store. A little frame building 10x16 feet was erected upon the corner now occupied by the Bulletin office. In this Mr. Denison placed a small stock of goods which had been freighted overland, but the persons employed by him to manage the business proved unsatisfactory and he cast about for some one to give capable management to the institution. In the meantime Mr. H. C. Laub had come into the county, first working as a farmer, and then interesting himself in a store at Deloit. Inducements were made him to locate a store on the Purdy farm and he was about to locate there when Mr. Denison saw him and offered to trade his Denison store for Mr. Laub's claim at Mason's Grove, a claim which today is probably worth very many times the value of the little frontier stock. This was the commencement of the mercantile career of H. C. Laub, in Denison, a career of unexampled business activity, extending for over half a century. Mr. Denison had now interested and allied with him the most active business intellect that ever came to Crawford county. The things which Mr. Laub did for the upbuilding of this town and county are almost past belief. He was interested in everything. He built houses and store buildings, contracted for the erection of bridges, built schoolhouses, supplied the courthouse with wood, was interested in the manufacture of brick and built the first telegraph line from Boone to Council Bluffs. Mr. Laub came to Crawford county in December, 1855. He came by team from Benton county, and it was his intention to buy a claim and go to farming. His first day in Crawford



H. C. LAUB
Pioneer Merchant

county was spent with the hospitable people at Dunham's Grove, and on the following day he went to Deloit, where Mr. Winans made him welcome. He bought a claim of eighty acres, paying therefor fifty bushels of wheat. He later bought a log cabin in return for flour. Mr. Laub farmed but a short time. The first store at Deloit was owned by Ben Dobson, B. F. Darling and E. McKim. Mr. Laub became interested in this store and on November 16, 1856, he entered the mercantile business at Denison and we have before us, written in his own handwriting, a list of the different merchandising enterprises in which he was engaged during his active life as a merchant. The list contains so much of history, not only of Denison, but of all western Iowa, that we venture to reproduce it:

A LIST OF MY PARTNERS IN BUSINESS SINCE NOVEMBER 16, 1856.

- 1st—H. C. Laub & Eli Baer, Denison, Iowa.
- 2d—H. C. Laub & B. F. Dobson, Deloit, Iowa.
- 3d—H. C. Laub & B. F. Darling, Deloit, Iowa.
- 4th—Mrs. Ethan McKim & H. C. Laub, Deloit, Iowa.
- 5th—Laub & Sam Blankenship, Galland's Grove, Iowa.
- 6th—Laub & Nathan Lindsay, Harlan, Iowa.
- 7th—Laub & William Boots, Carrollton, Iowa.
- 8th—Laub & William Boots, Carroll, Iowa.
- 9th—Laub & The County Clerk of the County, Glidden, Iowa.
- 10th—Laub & Mooney, Vail, Iowa.
- 11th—Laub & C. D. Mitchell, Dunlap, Iowa.
- 12th—Laub, Dailey & Patterson, Dunlap, Iowa.
- 13th—Laub & Dailey, Dunlap, Iowa.
- 14th—Laub & Cyrus Sprecher, Denison, Iowa.
- 15th—Laub & Jesse Patterson, Dunlap, Iowa.
- 16th—Laub & James Mitchell, Woodbine, Iowa.
- 17th—Laub & Harshberger, Woodbine, Iowa.
- 18th—Laub & Justice, St. Johns, Iowa.
- 19th—Laub & Billings, Smithland, Iowa.
- 20th—Laub & House, West Side, Iowa.
- 21st—Laub & Brother, West Side, Iowa.
- 22d—Laub & George Baer, West Side, Iowa.
- 23d—Laub & Romans, Denison, Iowa.
- 24th—Laub, Dewey, Patterson & Baker, Denison, Iowa.
- 25th—Laub & Hayne, Denison, Iowa.
- 26th—Laub & Son, Correctionville, Iowa.
- 27th—Laub & Fitchner, Correctionville, Iowa.
- 28th—Laub & Vary, Kingsley, Iowa.
- 29th—H. C. Laub, Fitchner & Co., Correctionville, Iowa.
- 30th—H. C. Laub & Son, Correctionville, Iowa.
- 31st—Laub, Dewey & Williams, Riverton, Iowa.
- 32d—Laub & Dewey, Arcadia, Iowa.

Mr. Laub was one of the organizers of the settlers who went to the defense of the frontier against the Indians, and he was first lieutenant and quarter-

master of the company which was raised and which had its stockade at Cherokee, Iowa, where it remained until the Indians had subsided. As we have before stated, he was the contractor for the telegraph line from Boone to Omaha, the poles being hauled by oxen. He stated that the Northwestern at first intended to go up the Maple Valley, as its branch line now does, making its main line pass through Ida Grove, but that this plan was abandoned in favor of the Boyer valley.

If Mr. Denison had done nothing else for this city save to enlist the abundant energy and executive ability of H. C. Laub in its behalf, we would still be greatly his debtor. The combination was an effective one—on the one hand the idealist, the promoter, the visionary if you will; on the other hand the hard-headed, practical man of accomplishment. It is to these two men that Denison owes the best of its early history. While Mr. Laub was busy promoting the material interests of things at home, Mr. Denison was busy selling lands to eastern buyers, securing new settlers, and promoting large projects for the city.

At this time, 1857, Denison consisted practically of the so-called "Denison Hotel," the little store across the street, the mills located on the Boyer near what is now the Northwestern "Y," with the log cabins of Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Swain. Mr. Whitmyer was installed in the hotel and there were a number of workmen, prominent among whom were George and Warren Calkens.

The first birth in Denison was that of Mary Louise Seagraves, born November 13, 1856, and the first death was that of a child of Francis Reynolds.

One of the best and most intimate pictures of the first winters in Denison we get from a letter written by Mr. A. S. Wright, now of Moline, Illinois. The old settlers remember him well as one of our earliest and cleverest artisans. He tells of his coming to Denison, his first view of the town and the experiences of the winter of 1857 as follows:

"My first sight of Denison was in September, 1857, after a three days' ride in a lumber wagon from Omaha with Uncle Ike Goodrich, without any roads or bridges. We had to ford all the streams; we forded the East Boyer, near where the Northwestern depot is, in the rain, for it had rained all the afternoon. We climbed the hill near where the old Reynolds and Swain sawmill was and then were in Denison, but there were only four buildings in the place, none of which were finished, namely, the old Denison Hotel, with six unfinished rooms; schoolhouse, sixteen by sixteen; the Denison store, ten by sixteen; and the Bischer house with one room finished, or rather lathed, as there were no plastered rooms in Denison at that time. It was dark and raining and we did not make any stop in Denison but hurried on up the divide to Burnt Woods and then north down to the Boyer. When we reached the top of the bluff overlooking the Goodrich place, Mr. Goodrich commenced to call or shout for help and two men came down to the river with a lantern. We turned the horses loose, then took off our clothes for a swim, that is, Goodrich did, all but his shirt; I only took off coat and vest, and tied them in a bundle to carry; Goodrich left his in the wagon. It was pitch dark and raining—the lantern gave about as much light as a match. I was a very good swimmer, but my bundle of clothes got me into trouble and I was carried down stream several rods and finally landed by striking my head into the perpendicular bank of black mud.



DENISON PUBLIC LIBRARY



VIEW OF MAIN STREET, DENISON

They then came with the lantern and pulled me out and we went up to the Goodrich house, through the tall grass, as two lumps of mud. The next morning (Sunday) was beautiful. The sun was shining clear, but I did not get up until the men brought over my trunk. Monday I went over to Denison, where Ezra Smith, a man that I had worked with in Moline, Illinois, and who had sent the team for me at Omaha, had a contract with the Providence Western Land Company to build some sixty buildings. He proposed that I go in company with him but I did not like the outlook, and he sublet a portion of several buildings to me, but the 1857 panic came very soon and the land company suspended work and that put us all out of business. Mr. Smith had brought with him several carpenters from Moline, and as they were all married men and I the only single one, I let the men have all the money I had to help them back to Illinois. This left me strapped excepting the claim on the land company. It was a lonesome time for me. I sold my draughting instruments for a small heating stove, rented the ten by sixteen store room for ten dollars per month, got me some tobacco and pipes and settled down. As I had never smoked before, it made me very sick but that was nothing to what I was suffering from, that worst of all sicknesses—homesickness. When the snow began to fall it seemed as though I was being literally buried alive. I simply could not live in such lonesome idleness; nothing to read, no mails, no money. I then formed a partnership with a German named Fred Bischer who was a cabinet maker and had a shop in his house and some black walnut and cherry lumber. My father, grandfather and great-grandfather were owners of little shops in New England and made chairs, furniture of all cheap kinds, and were also painters, for all of these different trades were then usually followed by the same party. During my early life at home I had had experience in all of these trades. Bischer was a good workman and, like myself, blue, and he eagerly accepted my partnership proposition. But he had to have a lathe to turn our bed-posts, table legs and chair stuff. The land company had a blacksmith shop and tools. Bischer could work iron some and he made the head and tail stocks while I made the wood pulleys—in fact we made a lathe and then belted it to a grindstone, and one of us would turn the grindstone while the other turned the wood. When spring came we had made six tables, six bedsteads, two bookcases and eighty chairs; but we had no varnish; neither had we any money with which to buy it. Finally, John Purdy bought some chairs and gave us five dollars, with which we bought one gallon of varnish.

I have always looked back upon that first winter, after my attack of homesickness, more with a kind of pleasure, for we had some fun. There were some ten or fifteen young men there with me, for there were no old men, excepting a few thirty-five-year-old men, and thirty-five years is very old in a new country. We used to have dances (stag dances) as there were but few women. There was one, a Miss Seagrave, who would not dance, and another, Ellen Bassett, fourteen years old, and she, poor girl, had never seen a dance. But dancing with our music, which was often very crude, became monotonous at times and then, although we had fair board, we would get credit at the company store of the agent, Mr. Persons, and have what in this day they call a "smoker." We had canned oysters, eggs, crackers, etc. Perkins was the cook, Aldrich the

toastmaster and "Dr." Baer chairman. Perkins was a bountiful cook but his cooking usually made us all sick before morning, and then we had to call on "Dr." Baer. I recollect at one time that I went to call on the "doctor" in a hurry for Tom Aldrich who, after the smoker, was taken with a violent attack of appendicitis, or something of that kind, and I found the doctor almost in a death struggle with the same disease. The doctor told me between gasps that it was "Perkins' blasted griddle cakes," for the evening before Perkins had tried to give us something extra. Usually, if I recollect his formula correctly, he made a batter of buckwheat, crackers and eggs, with oysters sprinkled on top, but this time he added some sausage meat that he got from Mrs. Persons and, as he was playing cards at the same time that the cakes were frying, he cooked them too long, hence the trouble with the digestion.

Our friend "Mack" seldom, if ever, joined us as he was teaching at Mason's Grove, and our other friend, H. C. Laub, was too old, as he was about thirty years old and married, and this made him a very old, old man. He often helped us to supplies from his store, however."

Among the early arrivals attracted from the east were J. D. Seagrave and A. F. Bond. A log schoolhouse was erected on the present site of the W. A. McHenry home and Thomas Aldrich was the first teacher in the winter of 1857-58. The county seat having been located, it next became necessary to give to the county institutions a permanent home. Clay was discovered in the northeast part of town and George Calkens and A. F. Bond set to work erecting the first kiln and burning the first brick manufactured in the county. Having helped to manufacture the brick, Mr. Bond, who was a mason by trade, set to work to erect the first brick buildings in the county. The first was the residence of Mr. J. W. Denison, which for many years occupied the corner where now is located the home of Mr. C. Gronau. The courthouse building was next erected. It was thirty by forty feet in dimensions and the woodwork was largely of native timber. It more than sufficed for the needs of the county, as is shown by the fact that only a part of the first story was finished. The second story remained in the rough for many years and was the scene of all the political, religious and social gatherings of the community.

There was no postoffice nearer than Manteno, near Galland's Grove and the mail was brought by such of the neighbors as made infrequent trips to that settlement. Later a postoffice was established at Mason's Grove and finally an office was located at the home of Mr. Swain, near the mill site.

All of our old settlers tell of the severe winter which followed the first year of Denison's history. Prior to that time game, especially deer, had been plentiful, but in the early winter there was a fall of about six feet of snow and many wild animals perished from hunger. In January, 1857, there came a thaw followed by a freeze, glazing the snow with a coat of ice, during which period many deer were slain as the deer would break through the crust and flounder in the snow, rendering them easy prey to the light-footed, ravenous wolves. It was a number of years before deer in any number were seen in the vicinity again. No wells had been sunk and two of the daily occupations of the pioneer seem to have been hauling water from the river and from springs, and hauling logs and timber from the woods.

The spring of 1858 was a season of great activity. The change was great. The little town, the store and the courthouse were wonders to the few settlers who had thought themselves located where the hunting of deer and the trapping of furs would never be interfered with. A church was organized in 1857, the present First Baptist church, the schoolhouse was built, mail route and post-office established, farms were opened and homes began to rise not only in the flourishing little town but further and further out on the prairie. The belief that none could live away from the protection of the few groves of timber was disproved. The lands were sold freely, five dollars per acre being the price, almost uniformly. Numerous eastern investors aided in the upbuilding of the community and at one time a force of seventeen carpenters were at work, and fifteen residences were built upon farm lands for eastern owners. In this way what was known as Bakerville, in the southern part of Otter Creek township, was built, Bakerville consisting of three houses built on adjacent corners of four quarter sections owned by a Mr. Baker, of Illinois. And thus the little settlement grew and prospered with every evidence that the promoters would reap a rich harvest.

The early settler had to be almost sufficient unto himself. The nearest trading point was Council Bluffs, and when the settler raised his hogs, butchered and dressed them and hauled them the three days trip to market he seldom received more than a dollar and a half per hundred. This he expended in "boughten" articles, which were of uniformly high price. Coal oil was one dollar and forty cents per gallon; matches were ten cents a box; cloth of all kinds; clothing, boots and shoes, were at high valuations; wheat flour was a luxury and families were often without it. Flour sold here as high as nine cents per pound and in the diaries of old settlers it is interesting to note how they borrowed a few pounds from each other and kept accurate record of its return, as of some valuable commodity. Money was scarce; nearly all transactions were in the nature of barter and trade. Mr. H. C. Laub has told us that in the spring after the first opening of his store he found that he had neither goods nor money. Everything had been sold to the settlers, but sold on time, and he had no money with which to buy more goods. The settlers were almost universally honest, however, and in time the bills were paid and the little store was enabled to resume operations. While the struggle for existence was a hard one it must not be supposed that the settlers went hungry or cold. The clothes were purchased for warmth and wear. The shoes were heavy and durable and there were not a few of the old timers who spent their evenings over the cobbler's bench. The soil was rich and fertile. During the season there was a plenteous supply of fresh vegetables; and potatoes, onions, squash and pumpkins were stored away for winter use. There were many wild fruits, of which mention has been made. The maple trees furnished a "sweetening" that was an excellent substitute for the sugar of today. In the woods large quantities of wild honey were found. Prairie chicken and quail furnished dainty morsels for the table. Venison was a common article of diet and skins of coon and otter helped to keep the family warm during the long cold season. There were churches and social gatherings, lyceums, spelling schools, even the

iniquitous dance, husking bees and raisings for the men and quilting bees for the women.

Some excellent pictures of pioneer life are given by Mr. A. F. Bond in his diary, which he kept almost uninterruptedly from 1857 to 1871. While these books are naturally devoted to the intimate details of his daily life, they throw many side lights upon the daily life of the community. Mr. Bond came here in 1857, together with Mr. E. S. Plimpton and Mr. J. D. Seagraves, the latter of whom had purchased land from the Providence Western Land Company while still in the east. Mr. Seagraves settled upon his land and Mr. Bond and Mr. Plimpton rented a piece of ground and "batched" together, their location being known as Bondville, on Big Creek. Speaking of the wild game during that first season, Mr. Bond says that the prairie chickens used to be so thick that they would only use the choicest portions of them to cook, throwing the remainder away. "Then, too," he continues, "we used to dry the legs and breast, reserving them for periods of scarcity of food. On one occasion, with the assistance of my two dogs, I killed a large coon, the biggest one I ever saw. This, myself and Patrick Slattery (who, by the way, is the first Irishman of whom we have record in the county) dressed, reserving the oil for making light during the winter evenings, and curing the rest for meat. At first I did not like the taste of it very well, but after becoming accustomed to it, it seemed to be delicious. Among the wild animals there were more wolves than anything else, although there were deer and elk, and on one occasion a buffalo was killed here. It was first seen where the residence of Sears McHenry now stands. Mr. Seagraves was living there at the time and a young man by the name of John Appleman was living with him. There was considerable excitement in the little settlement and a rapid rush for guns and ammunition, but to Mr. Appleman belongs the credit of having brought down the buffalo in the vicinity of Grace park. It weighed about eighteen hundred pounds and every one had a taste of buffalo meat. We had plenty of 'hog and hominy' those days and for fresh meat we had chickens and occasionally would kill a sheep.

"Mr. Dobson had a little mill at Deloit where we could get corn meal ground but he could not grind flour in it. For that we had to go down to Butler's mill, near Woobine, or to Logan. Dobson's mill would also turn out lumber and that first winter I worked a good deal of the time getting out posts and hauling logs to the mill. Later Swain and Reynolds had a mill for grinding flour at Denison.

"Isaac Goodrich was one of the earliest settlers. He came here in 1854 and was the first to enter land in this county. Goodrich township was named in his honor. He was prominent among the pioneers and his home was one of the centers of hospitality, and also during times of stress it became a fortress of protection against the feared Indian invasions. The voting place was at the log schoolhouse at Mason's Grove."

Mr. Bond relates that he was elected constable and that the candidates were given a speed trial to demonstrate their fitness for the office. He tells that he was obliged to run a certain number of rods with a rail on his back, being given the start of a runner who was unincumbered. Being the victor in the

race he was triumphantly elected, while Ed Cadwell, of Coon Grove, being also noted as fleet of foot, was elected with him.

The first sessions of the district court were held in the log schoolhouse in Denison, and Judge Ford, of Harrison county, was one of the earliest presiding judges.

Among those coming to Denison in 1857-58 may be noticed Mr. Ed Persons, J. W. Ellis, who built the Highland House on the present site of the German M. E. church, and whose hostelry was a landmark for many years, Joseph Brogden came in 1857, living north of Denison. He remained until the Indian scare, when the family went back to Illinois, returning to Crawford county in 1861. George and Warren Calkens were also prominent citizens, being the first brick makers, among the first tavern keepers, and Warren Calkens being interested in the store which Mr. Denison had built; Jacob Acker was the proprietor of the Denison House; S. P. Gardner located near the Fink place between Deloit and Denison; other early settlers were Mr. Bischer and Mr. Didra, the first of the Germans. Mr. Bischer came here as a carpenter, built one of the first houses in the south part of town and for some time manufactured furniture for the settlers. Later he removed further west. J. D. Jones, afterward sheriff, came with a breaking outfit. He had several yoke of oxen and did good work for the many farmers who were just making their start. He left the county for a time and returned, together with Mr. C. Green, both of them living for several years at Bakerville. Mr. Todd, Mr. George King, and J. B. Huckstep were among the prominent people at the time. Mr. Todd returned with his family to Illinois at the time of the Indian scare, and died at his old home. Tracy Chapman, one of the strong men of the county, came at a very early date, married a daughter of Cornelius Dunham and lived the remainder of his life among his broad acres along the East Boyer valley.

Dr. McWilliams and Hugh McWilliams came in 1857. Dr. McWilliams was a physician of ability, but he had decided to abandon his profession and wrest his living from the soil. Learning, by chance, perhaps, of his medical skill, the settlers, who had no other medical aid, practically forced him to continue the practice of his profession. The practice of medicine was not such an easy matter as it is at this time of telephones and automobiles. The settlements were widely scattered and each night call meant perhaps a drive of fifteen or twenty miles across the well nigh trackless prairie. Dr. McWilliams did his work faithfully and well and he contributed in a large measure to the health and welfare of the community, remaining patiently at the bedside of the sick, ushering the little lives into the world, fighting against tremendous odds with the black diphtheria, which was one of the most fatal scourges of the early day; combining the offices of nurse and physician, of counsellor and friend, snatching a life from the grave where he could and comforting the dying with all the consolations of his rock-ribbed Presbyterian faith. Dr. McWilliams was near to the heart of every old settler in the county. Dr. Stanton was the first physician resident in Denison proper, and he was followed, upon the coming of the railroad, by that splendid friend and physician, Dr. William Iseminger. S. J. Comfort was the first lawyer and he built what afterward became the residence of A. D. Molony.

The farmers were greatly handicapped by want of farm machinery, as we know it today. The plows were heavy and unwieldy. The oxen were slow and ponderous. There were no self-binders, no cultivators, no disc harrows and no threshing machines. The farmer prepared what he called a threshing floor. This was a small space cleared of vegetation, with the earth packed and pounded down hard, forming a smooth surface. Into this the grain and straw were thrown and the oxen were turned in upon it and driven around and around until the grain had been stamped out and separated from the straw. The straw was then removed and the grain carefully gathered for the preparation of the precious flour.

Among the other men whom we should mention are William Thompson, who helped to build the courthouse; Mr. James Conner, who moulded the brick from which the courthouse was built; Wilson Manners, who lived just east of Denison beside the creek which for many years has borne his name, and Ed Person, who ran the company store.

Jacob Acker was also one of the best known people. He followed Mr. Seagraves as proprietor of the Denison House, and "Acker's Tavern" and his hospitable family were known throughout all the countryside. George King, coming from Jacksonville, Illinois, was also a prominent citizen. By 1859 Denison had advanced to the dignity of being an independent voting precinct and the town had about one hundred inhabitants. It was in this year that a vote was taken on granting a land bonus to the Boyer Valley Railroad Company, the forerunner of the Northwestern. The little town had survived the hard times of 1857, the Providence Western Land Company had resumed its activities, the courthouse and the residence of Mr. Denison had been built, thus giving to Denison the superlative substantiality of brick, the log schoolhouse had a scant attendance of sturdy youngsters during week days, and church and revival services held sway on Sundays and many evenings of the year. There were no buildings south of Broadway and the slopes, on which now stand the major part of our homes and churches, were wind-swept, unbroken prairie. With this we believe we may safely conclude the first or foundation period of Denison's history and proceed to the decade from 1860 to 1870, the ten years which witnessed the Indian troubles, the great war, the incoming of the railroad and the steady progress of the little town.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE SECOND DECADE.

1860-1870.

The census of 1860 showed that there were but 2,382 acres of improved farms in the entire county; the total value of farm machinery was \$3,188.00; there were 102 horses; 1 mule; 163 milk cows; 38 oxen; 203 other cattle; 54 sheep and 654 swine. The total production of the county was 4,298 bushels of wheat; 23,955 bushels corn; 2,506 bushels of oats; 140 pounds tobacco; 145 pounds wool, and 2,102 bushels of potatoes. There were in the county 19 children under one year of age and the total population was 383, of whom 201 were males and 182 females.

In 1861 the community was so well established that Mr. Denison, who was always anxious to boom the town, bought a printing outfit and had the hand press and a limited supply of type freighted across the prairie. H. H. Crowell was the editor of this first newspaper venture, the Boyer Valley Record, and it continued a precarious existence under his management until his altercation with Mr. Allen, the fatal termination of which drove Crowell from the newspaper field. Mr. Denison endeavored to prolong the life of the paper, but it soon suspended publication, not to be revived until the coming of the railroad.

During the first year of the '60s the Indians became active throughout the north and west. There was little, if any, actual damage done to settlers in this county, although some horses were stolen and other depredations committed. But the settlers were comparatively isolated and rumor magnified the dangers a thousand fold. Mr. Wicks has given us the picture of the frightened settlers gathering at what they styled Fort Purdy, the children crying, the women on the verge of hysteria, and the men boasting of a valor which perhaps they did not feel. A little story told by A. F. Bond well illustrates the temper of the settlers and their great fear of Indian marauders. He was at work near Mason's Grove when a settler came to him with a story that he had passed Bakersville and there, in an open doorway, had seen an Indian skulking on his hands and knees and peering out of the door of one of the unoccupied houses. Mr. Bond was urged to go at once to Denison to organize a posse. This he did in great haste and the brave men of the little community shouldered their guns and

hastened with all speed possible to protect their homes—only to find at Baker-ville the open door of an empty house with a *saw-horse* standing a few feet within.

Under the head of county government we have seen how the county organized, how Indian scouts were enlisted and state aid was received in the shape of forty Enfield rifles. This Indian scare, which fortunately proved to be nothing more than a scare, drove many settlers back to the eastern states. Probably one-fourth of the little community returned to the old homes where they felt that there was security for the lives of themselves and their loved ones. We do not blame them—the only wonder is that so many stayed. A portion of those returning to their homes finally drifted back to their claims in Crawford county, but many did not return and the county suffered the loss of a number of valuable citizens.

Close on the heels of these Indian scares, and indeed contemporaneously with them, came the great war of the rebellion. The number of enlisted men from this county was not large, but it was proportionately great, especially when one considers that this was a mere outpost of northern civilization, that news of the outside world was scant and that the community had largely lost touch with the great events of the nation. The Indian scare and the war, greatly retarded the growth and progress of Crawford county and of Denison, and it was not until the close of the rebellion and the reestablishment of a feeling of security among the settlers that western Iowa began to pulsate with life and energy in response to the oncoming tide of national progress. Prices were better. Every week brought news of the nearer approach of the railroad line. The telegraph brought the people in close contact with the outer world. Men found employment hauling poles and setting them up for the telegraph company. Small business houses were installed to be ready for the great rush when the railroad should come through.

The coming of the railroad metamorphosed the entire town. For some time this was the end of the line. There were a large number of laborers here, construction crews, engineers, overseers, and hangers-on of all sorts. The town was transformed from a quiet frontier settlement of neighbors and friends to a busy, rushing, wicked little place, where had gathered not only the real pioneer and settler, but the adventurous soldier of fortune and the army of railroad laborers and camp followers. The little settlement did not have the machinery of law and order to adequately meet this situation, and although the deeds of sale first given by the Providence Western Land Company provided that no real estate in Denison should be used for saloon purposes, a half dozen sprang up in different parts of the town, where they ran with little or no restraint. There were gambling houses and all the evils that usually follow a large body of homeless men. This condition of affairs persisted for several years and it was not until the early '70s that Denison once more resumed its old character. When the railroad first reached here, in 1866, Denison could not have contained more than from one hundred to one hundred and fifty inhabitants. During the railroad building period this population was swollen to several times its normal size. By 1869 it had gone back and was a village of approximately two hundred and fifty to three hundred people.



DENISON HOSPITAL



NORTHWESTERN FREIGHT YARDS, DENISON

The first depot of the Northwestern was located on what is now called the McHenry Farm. Mr. Denison, the agent of the land company, had felt secure that, as Denison was already established, the railroad would be obliged to recognize the town and place its station within the town limits. The railroad company, on the other hand, was accustomed to large concessions. It received from the government all the unoccupied lands within fifteen miles on either side of its right of way, and it refused to locate its station within the town of Denison without concessions being made. The station was accordingly placed south of town and a town site was projected in that locality. The land in this vicinity was owned by a Mr. Cochran. This land Mr. Denison hastened to buy and something of the story of this purchase is told us in a letter written by Mrs. Mary Denison Hooker, now of Spokane, Washington. "When the railroad came," says Mrs. Hooker, "the railroad officials had no time to give father concerning the location of the station until after he bought the Cochran land, which was situated on the bottom across the river from the town. Then he waited for them to come to him. They said afterward that they had had no trouble about town sites all the way across the state until they struck that Baptist minister at the county seat of Crawford county. I remember his hurried departure for Ohio to secure the land, and that when he returned he said that fifteen minutes after he had completed the transaction an agent of the railroad appeared at Mr. Cochran's door on the same errand."

The railroad persisted in its determination to have a town site of its own to the extent of putting in a temporary station and building a turn table. The first lumber yard was located on this proposed site for the town. Mr. Denison and the railroad company soon came to terms, however, the railroad receiving a large number of lots, in return for which they moved the station east about one mile to the foot of Locust street. Mr. F. H. Morgan was the first station agent.

We have before us a volume entitled, "Turner's Guide to the Rocky Mountains," published at South Bend, Indiana, in 1868. This was one of the many advertising books published to describe the advantages of the west and it tells of the country from Cleveland to Chicago, from Chicago to the Missouri, and from the Missouri to the Rocky Mountains. In the advertising pages we find the announcement of Morris McHenry & Company, general land agents, the firm being composed of M. McHenry, county treasurer and county surveyor, and W. A. McHenry, notary public. Among other things they state that they have four hundred thousand acres of choice prairie and timber land for sale at from one dollar and seventy-five cents to fifteen dollars per acre. There is also the advertisement of J. W. Denison, agent of the Providence Western Land Company and the American Emigrant Company. He offers "thirty thousand acres of choice prairie and timber lands in Crawford county" and states that they are situated along the line of the Chicago and Northwestern railway. "Upon the north and west sides they extend back in different localities from one to sixteen miles from Denison to Charter Oak, on the west bank of the East Soldier. They are rolling, well watered and healthy. The soil is a dark loam, with a due mixture of sand and clay, being adapted to the raising

of stock or grain, and favored with a choice of markets, with flouring and saw mills near at hand, and woolen manufactories within twenty miles.

"Terms—Prairie from three dollars to ten dollars per acre, and timber from fifteen to twenty dollars, and on time to suit purchasers. In some cases longer time is given and no advance payment, but with annual interest. References—Morris McHenry & Co., Denison, Iowa; Governor E. Dyer, Pres. Providence Western Land Company, Providence, R. I.; J. C. Savery, Gen. Supt. Am. Emigration Co., Des Moines, Iowa; General G. M. Dodge, Council Bluffs, Iowa."

We quote from the pages of "Turner's Guide" the following rather grandiloquent account of the early wayfarer along the line of the Northwestern:

"From Carroll up—up, the rolling prairie, covered with luxuriant and waving verdure, six miles to East Side station (now Maple River Junction), thence onward to Tip Top, (now Arcadia) the summit level between the two great rivers. The view is grand—magnificent; rolling, swelling in gentle undulations, the face of the country looks as though it had just been crystallized from the surges of 'Old ocean.' Now down the Missouri slope! The change is magical. The streams have changed their direction, and each ripple seems to be an echo of 'Westward, ho!' Descending we pass West Side, get a glimpse of the East Boyer, leave Vail behind and reach Denison, the beautiful seat of justice of Crawford county, sitting queenlike on an eminence between the East and Main Boyer, near their junction, four hundred and twenty-three miles from Chicago, Denison overlooks a delightful valley, through whose leafy groves the Boyer meanders for miles and miles away. The long trains of cars go 'marching on' under a receding cloud of smoke by day and radiant with fiery coruscations by night, animating the scene, and making prophecy of the 'good time coming,' when the hills and dales, and valleys shall be covered by an industrious and happy yeomanry, and plenty will fill the garner, while peace possesses the soul of the recipient of ten thousand bounties! The town is chiefly settled by immigrants from glorious New England, which has sent out her millions of social and industrial missionaries, flanked on the one side by the pulpit, and on the other by the schoolhouse. That temple of the chivalry, the saloon with its poisoned shrine, is not here.

"The population of Denison is not large. It is a new town and numbers not much over three hundred people. The business of the place is represented by three dry goods and grocery stores, one hardware store, one furniture store, one drug store, two saddle and harness shops, two boot and shoe shops, two hotels, one blacksmith shop, one wagon shop, one saw mill and one flouring mill. One physician and two lawyers, all highly ornamental but not extremely useful, grace the town. Artisans and workers of all kinds are needed and will be warmly greeted. There is considerable water power, yet unimproved. Here the railroad makes an elbow and runs southwesterly to the Missouri valley and to Council Bluffs, sixty-seven miles away. A large breadth of territory can easily be made tributary to this locality. The fecund prairie awaits the plow, from whose furrows shall spring plenty. The pleasant groves invite settlers to joyous homes, and altogether give promise of the coveted advantages

of a highly civilized condition. Several railroad connections are anticipated here.

"The future of Denison is regarded with much interest by shrewd business men and persons seeking homes and fortunes. Strangers desiring to satisfy themselves in relation to it, will receive the most gentlemanly attention from the founder of the town, Mr. J. W. Denison, on the spot, or by applying to Morris McHenry & Company, dealers in real estate there.

"Crawford county is threaded with rivers and branches with their rich valleys. The Boyer runs southwesterly through the county, diagonally; East Boyer flows into the main stream a short distance from Denison. The eastern sections are washed by the Otter, the Paradise and the Nishnabotny, while the Middle and East Soldier meander in the western part of the county. Along all of these streams are found fine farming lands, interspersed with timber, aggregating about eight thousand acres. Some of the uplands are rough, but much the largest portion of the county is susceptible of easy cultivation, and is very healthy. The Chicago & Northwestern railway, the great artery of central Iowa, enters the county at a point nearly due west from Chicago, and at the center turns sharply to the left and winds down the valley of the Boyer on its way to the Missouri and the Rocky Mountains.

"The population of the county is not far from two thousand, a circumstance, perhaps, favorable to those who are in pursuit of cheap lands that are sure immediately to rise in value. Immigration is flowing in quite rapidly. There are some fifteen organized school districts and as many schoolhouses, with a disposition to build more as they are needed. Besides Denison there are three railroad stations, namely: West Side, Vail and Crawford, (now Dow City) all of which promise to become towns of some importance at no very distant day. There are also several young towns in the county of more or less pretension. These are Deloit, seven miles above Denison, with two flouring and two saw mills, two stores, several mechanics' shops and a brick schoolhouse; Swedeboy, four miles above Deloit, with a steady and industrious class of citizens who are already arranging for a meeting and a schoolhouse; Baker-town, six miles from the county seat, and Charter Oak, sixteen miles west of Denison, where the American Emigrant Company have commenced a very promising settlement, and have some fifteen thousand acres of first class farming lands for building up the town. These lands are selling for from three to five dollars per acre, on long time to actual settlers, thus giving persons of very moderate means opportunities to secure homes. This town is located on the west bank of East Soldier river, and on the direct road from Denison to Onawa, and is about equi-distant from Dunlap on the Boyer and Mapleton on the Maple. Crawford is ten miles from Denison and eight miles further on is the new town of Dunlap, in Harrison county."

Unfortunately the Boyer Valley Record, commenced in 1860 under the supervision of Mr. Denison and edited by Mr. Crowell, has belied its name and left almost no record. This deprives us of one of the best and most authentic sources of history. The memory of man is incomplete and inaccurate after such a lapse of time. The years telescope themselves together so that it is difficult to tell whether an event happened in 1860 or in 1863, or even at

a later date. This absence of newspapers and of permanent records makes the period from 1860 to 1869 a most difficult one for the historian. From the record of the board of supervisors we find that in January of 1860 the courthouse square was surveyed; that there were three townships in the county; that during the year the exciting episode of the Yeomen horse-stealing case interested the people. From the diary of Mr. Bond we have a picture of the life of the countryside, with interesting side lights upon Denison. On Thursday, January 19th, Mr. Bond made a visit to Denison which he describes very briefly in this language: "This morning went into Mr. Laub's school; I enjoyed the visit very much. I got my dinner at Mr. Acker's; visited Mrs. Melville and ate supper at Mr. Persons'. Went to prayer meeting, then came home." The next week he visited Denison, took dinner with Mr. Purdy, and later "went to debate." Mr. Bond has told us something of the early lyceums. They were held in log school houses either at Mason's Grove or at Denison. The subject for the next debate would be announced at each meeting and sides would be chosen. At the opening of the meeting judges would be selected, and there was always quite a large crowd of men and women and boys and girls in attendance. From all this we get the idea of a happy, contented countryside, primitive, but fairly sufficient unto itself. Denison we see more as a little country trading point than as a village with distinctively village interests. There were no wells and the water was hauled from the rivers and creeks and springs. The coming of a letter, and even of a paper, was an event to be noted in the old settler's diary. There was plenty to eat and sufficient clothes to wear, but luxuries were few and riches out of the question. It was a community of poor men, working and struggling together, every flour bin open to the borrowing neighbor and every latch string out. The only thing that differentiated Denison from the rest of the county was the fact that it had the county seat and the infrequent sessions of the court, together with the presence of the county officers attracted nearly all of the people of the county to Denison at some time in the year. It was a time of hard labor. The merchant taught school; the county officers plowed and cut timber; the farmer plastered and laid brick. In other words, the trades and occupations had not become differentiated and each man did the work that came to hand. The groves furnished an abundance of timber for the few settlers, the prairie lands being for the most part unoccupied. Work in the woods at cutting logs for homes and stables, splitting rails for fences, and preparing firewood for the long winters, occupied a considerable portion of the pioneer's time. In June of 1860 a certain Mr. Crooks took the census of the county, a portion of the results of which we have already given. Among the Methodists the infrequent and mis-called "quarterly meetings" were great events of the year. Mr. S. E. Dow was the most prominent figure in the western part of the county, just as Mr. Denison and Mr. Laub were at the county seat. In October, 1860, the county had become sufficiently settled and sufficiently imbued with county pride so that the first agricultural fair was held. The exhibit was in front of the courthouse square. The races were held in the street and Mr. Bond tells us that "there was a pretty good crowd and display of everything that the country produced at that time—vegetables, grain, and cattle tied around."

Mr. Bond was secretary of the association at that time and a society was formed which purchased the grounds west of Denison, for so many years known as the "fair grounds." The society led a precarious existence, there being far more lean years than fat ones. Aid was given by the county from time to time to assist in building fences and buildings, and a small appropriation was received from the state. The indebtedness of the society increased from year to year, however, until it finally amounted to more than the capital stock. This led to the society being disbanded and the grounds being sold—a short-sighted policy from which Denison has since suffered. In later years the society has been reorganized with headquarters and grounds at Arion. These later day fairs have been successful and the institution promises to become a permanent feature in our county life.

The year 1861 furnished two sensations. The commencement of the war seems to have caused hardly a ripple, but the two great events of the year were the revival of the Indian scares and the unfortunate killing of Isaac Allen by H. H. Crowell. We have no desire to exploit the darker pages of our county history. Violent outbursts of human passions are not confined to any country or to any clime. It is a fact, however, that the early settlers, working hard, living close to nature, with much simpler wants than we have today, were, by force of circumstances and by inclination, a law abiding people. Thus what must have been even then an every day occurrence in the congested districts of the larger cities became in this community a great and shocking event. The death of Mr. Allen occurred in a little printing office located on Main street after an altercation between himself and the editor of the Record, Mr. Crowell. Death resulted from a blow on the skull by some heavy, blunt instrument. Mr. Allen was rendered unconscious and died in a few hours. Crowell was immediately arrested, waived preliminary hearing, and was taken to Sioux City for trial, where he was acquitted on the ground of self defense. The witnesses to the tragedy were few and these were not all present at the trial. The merits of the case it is not our province to discuss.

The nearest real market in 1861 was still at Council Bluffs. We cannot forbear from giving from Mr. Bond's diary the brief notes of a market trip, which will tell our present day farmers better than anything else could do, the difficulties under which their predecessors labored. Mr. Bond says, under date of Monday, January 14, 1861:

"Prepared to start to the Bluffs with pork. Went as far as Mr. Purdy's, where I stayed all night. Mr. and Mrs. Plimpton were there."

Tuesday, January 15th: "This morning joined Ellis and Brogden going to the Bluffs. Got our dinner at Dow's. I broke my sled and borrowed Mr. Dow's. Mr. Brogden broke his sled and fixed mine for use."

Wednesday, January 16th: "Went within ten miles of the Bluffs today."

Thursday, January 17th: "Arrived at the Bluffs about noon today. Sold my pork to R. P. Snow at four and five dollars per hundred weight, all weighing over one hundred and fifty pounds, five dollars; all weighing less than one hundred and fifty pounds, four dollars. Took store pay and one dollar in money."

Friday, January 18th: "Left the Bluffs this morning; stayed at Harris Grove over night."

Saturday, January 19th: "Returned from the Bluffs tonight."

In 1861 Council Bluffs was a very small place. Omaha was called Florence at that time. It was still smaller, and did not amount to much. Harris Grove was just this side of the Bluffs. In driving to that point travelers kept back from the Boyer river, crossing the prairies. There was no settlement at Dunlap. Joseph Brogden was the only expert blacksmith in the county and he proved a great drawing card for Denison. The second blacksmith was Mr. John Kelly, whose death occurred recently.

In June, 1861, Mr. Bond tells us that he joined a military company for home protection. This company was organized to defend the settlement from the raids of the Sioux warriors to the north. James Butler was captain of the company and H. C. Laub first lieutenant and quartermaster. There were from fifteen to twenty members of this company, not all of whom were called upon for duty. A portion, however, went north to Cherokee, where a stockade, or fortification, was erected and where they were joined by men from Woodbury and other of the neighboring counties. There were one or two skirmishes with the Indians and in the vicinity of Sioux City depredations were committed and several settlers were killed, but the Indian maraudings in this county partook more of the nature of sneak thievery than of warlike demonstrations.

There were in the county at this time one hundred and sixty-eight persons of school age; this would undoubtedly mean about two-fifths of the total population, making a probable total in the vicinity of four hundred. The settlers paid great attention to the schools. Districts were organized and teachers were employed. We find record of the employment of teachers at the munificent salary of three dollars per week.

We have previously stated something of postal facilities. Through the kindness of Mrs. Margaret DeWolf of Washington, D. C. who obtained access to the records of the post office department, we are able to give the following authentic data concerning the Denison office. The first post master was Jacob Whiting, who was commissioned October 27th, 1856. He kept the office in his residence near the Swain and Reynolds mill. The office was first supplied on a star route from Fort Dodge, by the county seats of Calhoun and Carroll counties, Denison, Shelbyville, Jeddo City to Council Bluffs. The route was 200 miles long and the trip was made once a week. J. W. Ellis was contractor receiving \$1,600.00, per annum. The carrier was scheduled to leave Fort Dodge Wednesday at 8 A. M., arriving at Council Bluffs the following Tuesday at noon. He left Council Bluffs at 8 A. M. Wednesday reaching Fort Dodge the next Tuesday. John G. Downs was contractor on the same route, at a compensation of \$2,462.00, from 1858 to 1866. James Billings was contractor at \$2,000.00 per annum for twice a week service during term from 1862 to 1866. A route from Denison to Onawa City was established about August 1860. Wm. F. Lockwood was contractor at \$520.00 per annum. During this same period a route from Marietta via Denison to Decatur, Nebr., 175 miles, once a week, was established. From 1862 to 1866, once a week service was maintained on

this route. This later became a 3 times a week service. There was also tri-weekly service between New Jefferson and Denison.

The following is a list of Denison post masters with date of appointment. Jacob Whittinger, October 27, 1856, T. B. Aldrich, January 10, 1858, S. J. Comfort, March 23, 1860, Thomas G. Connor, May 31, 1861, E. S. Plimpton, October 30, 1862, A. F. Bond, May 5, 1863, Elmer Howe, November 30, 1865, Reuben Hefflefinger, November, 2, 1868, J. Fred Meyers, April 11, 1877, Geo. L. Wright, July 17, 1886, Reuben Hefflefinger, May 14, 1889, M. M. McAlpin, December 14, 1893, David L. Boynton, October 8, 1897, Frederick W. Meyers, January 20, 1902.

From the records of the department we give the following table of postal receipts showing the growth of the office by 10 year periods. 1860 receipts \$24.29, 1870 receipts \$975.77, 1880 receipts \$3,443.55, 1890 receipts \$4,854.53, 1900 receipts \$8,159.81, 1910 receipts \$11,681.75. The receipts for the year ending March 31, 1911 were \$12,200.

While we have given the official list of post masters, there were numerous deputies who in the olden times were practically the post masters. At one time we find the office located in Mr. Laub's store, with Mr. Laub as deputy. At another time in the courthouse with Morris McHenry as acting postmaster. Yet again we find it in the bed room of Mr. Bond's home and later, when he became the hotel keeper, it was located in the old Highland house. Mr. Elmer Howe kept the office in his store on main street. This building was burned to the ground in 1865, it being the first "Big Fire" that the county knew. Under R. Hefflefinger the post office was located in the rear of his hardware store which was on the present site of the Crawford County State bank. In 1877 the office was removed by Mr. J. Fred Meyers to the Review corner where it remained until 1885. Mr. G. L. Wright removed the office to the former location back of the Hefflefinger bank. During the 2nd term of Pres. Cleveland, M. M. McAlpin was appointed and it was during his administration that the post office was moved to its present location on Main street, directly opposite the court house square.

During the Congressional term of Hon. J. P. Conner, who was a member of the Public Buildings Committee of the House of Representatives an appropriation of \$10,000.00 was secured for the purchase of a site for a Federal building, and the site of the Germania Opera House was selected and purchased by the government. Later, through the influence of Mr. Conner, a public building, to be erected at the cost of \$60,000, was authorized by congress, but as yet the appropriation has not been made available and no preliminary steps have been taken for the erection of the building. It is probable that several years will elapse before this great public convenience is given to the people. During the administration of postmaster D. L. Boynton rural free delivery was established, four of these routes being provided for Denison. Since that time the number of rural routes has been increased to seven. In 1908, city carrier service was established, there being at this time three city carriers. The Postal Savings system was ordered established in Denison, July 17, 1911.

In the fall of 1861 the county was again stirred by the operation of horse thieves, and we have record that Messrs. McHenry, Appleman, McKim and

Bond formed a posse who searched for guilty parties in the vicinity of Sac City for several days, but without success.

The second annual fair was successfully held in October, 1861. Later in the year high winds prevailed and the settlers had to put forth strenuous efforts to save their property from prairie fires.

The year 1862 was notable for the continuation of the scare concerning the redskins and the formation of a company of Indian scouts. In this year, also, more of the war spirit was shown. The winter was severe with heavy falls of snow, but nothing to equal the famous winter of 1856-57. By the springtime provisions were scarce. Mr. Bond tells in his diary that he "could not borrow any flour, but Mr. Denison let him have a few pounds of corn meal." The day after, however, he "secured fifteen pounds of flour from Mr. Plimpton." This was evidently one of the hardest years for the settlers. In this year we have the first mention of a Fourth of July celebration in Denison, although doubtless the nation's birthday had been celebrated in some form before. In this year Mr. Coburn built the mill near the site of the old Northwestern station and neighbors all around gathered to the raising, making this a notable event. It was in 1862 also that the Methodist people built their parsonage, the members of the congregation contributing largely in work, hauling the logs for the foundation, gathering to the raising, and providing, from native timber, all except the finishing lumber. This house was built upon the site of the present Baptist church and preceded the erection of the Methodist church itself by several years.

The first war meeting of which we have record was held at the courthouse on Monday, August 18, 1862. There were a number of these meetings and the second one was held on September 1st. Mr. Laub, Mr. McHenry and Mr. Butler seem to have been leading spirits in these war meetings. An officer from Council Bluffs was detailed to secure volunteers and a number enlisted. At this time the western frontier posts were endangered by the Indians, to whom the unsettled state of the Union had given courage. To man these posts the government was obliged to detail many troops to the west, and several times during the year large troops of cavalry horses and their escorts passed through Denison on their way to the far west.

In this year the first threshing machine is recorded as coming to the county. It was a great novelty and people went from different parts of the county to see it working on the Dow farm.

1863 found but little addition to the settlement. Times were hard, prices were high for what the settlers had to buy and the inconveniences of markets were such that they got but little for what they produced. It was in this year that the county commenced offering bounties for volunteers and a number of the loyal men of the community enlisted. The part that this county took in the great war, together with the names of the veterans who afterward made this their home, will be told in another chapter.

The year 1864 was almost a repetition of 1863 and saw but little growth, either in town or county. It is illustrative of the far off condition of our people that the height of the war spirit did not reach us until the last months of the rebellion's history.

The close of the rebellion brought a new era to the county. Some of the soldier boys returned and others, who were hardened to camp life and ready to exchange the adversities of war for the adversities of the frontier, came to the new west. The railroad was also approaching at the rate of a mile a day and all this gave new courage and spirit to the settlers. Mr. N. J. Wheeler came to Denison on the first passenger train, which reached here November 3, 1866. The station was in a box car near McHenry's farm. Mr. Wheeler, whose father already lived here, had secured an option on a school section, section 16, in Soldier township, and first went there to live. The oldest settler in that vicinity at the time was a Mr. Dowd, who lived in a willow log cabin. There was a stage station on the West Soldier on the stage line from Denison to Sioux City. After remaining a season on the Soldier Mr. Wheeler returned to Denison and he has, from memory, described for us what he found here at that time. He clerked in a frame store where now the Racket store stands on Main street. The courthouse was erected. Mr. Denison lived in his brick house where the Gronau residence now stands. W. A. McHenry lived on the property just west, now owned by Dr. Boyle. Morris McHenry lived on the site of the J. B. Roman's property. There were but few buildings south of Broadway, and these included a small brick schoolhouse, the residence of A. D. Molony, a saloon which stood on the present site of the Methodist church, and the Methodist parsonage of which we have spoken. Elmer Howe had a store where the Gulick block now stands on Main street, Mr. Laub being farther down the street. Mrs. Seagraves had a store on the Bulletin lot. There were three hotels, the Highland House, the Denison House, and Acker's Hotel, which occupied the present site of the Merchant's Hotel. The Review office was on the present site of the W. A. McHenry residence, occupying the old log school. The first lumber yard was owned by Wheeler and Warner, Mr. C. H. DeWolf being their representative. He built the Northwestern depot and had yards in that vicinity. Mr. Samuel Sprecher had a store building located on the site of the residence of Mr. C. Green. This building was afterward moved up town and is still standing, being occupied by the Denison Auto Company as a garage. Dr. Davis came about this time and was located in a little drug store on what we call "the bookstore corner." Among the newcomers at this time, 1867, were Mr. James Greenough and Mr. Charles Bullock, who started a drug store on Main street, and Mr. C. F. Cassady who, after clerking, became the proprietor of the Chicago Store and later of the Acker hotel which he called the Commercial House.

It was soon after the coming of the railroad that the county suffered its first real invasion from the grasshoppers. The old settlers tell us that they came like a cloud one September afternoon, alighting in the cornfields. By night the fields were stripped of their blades. The corn itself was not greatly damaged, but the grasshoppers laid their eggs and the great damage came the next year when the young were hatched and ate every green thing. It is reliably told that the grasshoppers were so thick upon the railroad grade near the McWilliams farm that freight trains were stalled, unable to run over the slippery tracks, and that the farmers were called on to clear the rails in front of the trains. The farmers made wooden or galvanized iron troughs, which they filled with kerosene. These were attached behind a drag and driven across the fields. The drag caused the

grasshoppers to jump and many of them fell into the troughs and were killed. Wagon loads of them were killed in this way, but in spite of all efforts much damage was done. It is reported that Mr. Samuel Luney succeeded in saving a forty acre field of wheat by the diligent use of this grasshopper exterminator and that his was almost the only good piece of wheat in East Boyer township. When the grasshoppers finally migrated Mr. Wheeler tells us that they rose in great clouds, going to the southeast and obscuring the sun for hours. The times were good, however, in spite of the grasshoppers, from the coming of the railroad until the panic of 1873.

CHAPTER XIX.

THIRD DECADE.

1870-1880.

We have before us a copy of the Denison Review printed July 16, 1869. Of the previous issues, when Mr. George W. Stephens was its editor, we have no copies. We believe we can give no better picture of the Denison of that day than by describing the little paper which reflected its life. It is a little six column, four page paper. It was published by J. D. Ainsworth. Among the business cards we find those of Dr. William Iseminger, physician and surgeon; J. W. Denison, real estate; J. D. Miracle, attorney at law; D. L. Gillette, proprietor Denison House; J. M. Acker, proprietor American House. There were also the cards of Dr. J. B. Cline, of Jefferson, who stated that he would visit Denison the second weeks in July and October; also the cards of Samuel Gonser, an attorney of Peterson, Clay county, Iowa; W. H. Nixon advertised as a painter and paper hanger; W. T. Spillman as a real estate agent in Denison and Charter Oak; Edward Miles and George Dann were carpenters, builders and general jobbers; Mr. Abner Graves called attention to his new stock of furniture and watches at the old Crawford House, while A. Warner advertised lumber. The first page of the paper was devoted to general literature, the second to Iowa news and the proceedings of the board of supervisors.

Among the real estate transfers we notice one hundred acres sold for seven hundred dollars; another hundred acres purchased by Michael Purcell for one thousand dollars; several eighties sold for a thousand dollars; a quarter section for thirteen hundred dollars and forty acres in Milford township for eighty dollars.

Among the business houses advertising were Greenough & Bullock, druggists; R. Heffelfinger, hardware; S. Sprecher, groceries; C. F. Cassaday, dry goods; O. K. Prouty, harness; and J. W. Denison as agent of the Providence Western Land Company. These were all the local advertisements. The railroad time table shows two passenger trains daily in each direction, except Sundays, when there was but one. Three freight trains ran each way daily, except Sundays.

The church directory shows two churches, the Methodist, with Rev. W. E. Smith as pastor; and the Baptist, with Rev. George Scott. Mr. C. H. De Wolf was agent for the Wheeler & Warner Lumber Company. Among the items of

interest is the announcement that a sidewalk has just been completed in front of the Baptist church on Main street, and that the same church has ordered an organ, at the expense of three hundred and fifty dollars.

The next issue contains the card of H. N. Wheeler, justice of the peace. Succeeding issues tell that Freeman Knowles is building a house; that Charles Bullock is erecting a home and Sheriff Blankenship is reported to have sold one hundred and twenty acres of land to Martin McKim for six hundred and ninety-six dollars, and two hundred acres for eleven hundred and fifty dollars to S. J. Comfort.

Some of the dangers of frontier life will be better understood from the following item: "A son of Elder Scott's the other evening while picking up chips picked up a rattlesnake and put it in the basket, thinking it was a piece of cloth. He did not perceive his mistake until he heard it rattle. He dropped it 'instanter.' Fortunately for him the snake did not attempt to bite."

Among the arrivals at the hotel whose names are still familiar we note those of T. J. Hoffman, Thomas Dobson and J. G. Vassar. As the newspaper progresses it attracts new advertisers, among whom we find Asa Rust, boot and shoe maker, corner Main and Tremont streets; and a variety store, selling dry goods, clothes, boots and shoes, groceries, "Yankee notions," and agricultural implements, all of which are sold by H. C. Laub.

In August, 1869, the current market prices in the Denison market were, wheat, \$1.00; oats, 40 cents; flour, \$3.50 per hundred weight; corn, \$1.00; beef, 6 to 10 cents; potatoes, \$1.00; dried apples, 20 cents pound; dried peaches, 20 cents pound; butter, 15 to 20 cents; sugar, 14 to 19 cents a pound; syrup, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per gallon; coffee, 27 to 40 cents pound; candles, 30 cents pound; lard, 20 cents; salt, per barrel, \$3.75.

That our city was growing in refinement may well be noted by the first advertisement of a music teacher, "Lovina Colton, of Vevy, Indiana," who proposed to give lessons if a class of fifteen could be obtained. An extract from the *Mag-nolia Star* gives a picture of the Denison of 1869:

"Denison occupies a beautiful tract of upland and is a thriving and sprightly town; has a neat, brick courthouse which would be an honor to older and more densely populated counties, two churches, Methodist and Baptist. The church buildings are good, especially the Baptist. There are three dry goods stores, one drug store, one grocery store, two agricultural warehouses, two grain warehouses, two hotels, one harness shop, one shoe shop, one hardware store, two furniture stores, one wagon shop, one tailor, one billiard hall, one bank, one flouring and saw mill, one painter, one lumber yard, four lawyers and one printing office."

That this was a town of some importance in western Iowa is shown by the fact that the western Iowa Baptist association held its meeting in Denison. The churches of Adel, Guthrie Center, Jefferson, Kendrick, Lake Creek, Logan, Panora, Sioux City, Maple Valley; Vermillion, Dakota territory; Yankton, Dakota territory; and Denison being represented.

After this date the county filled so rapidly that it will be impossible to give the names of the many new arrivals from time to time. We are fortunate, however, in being able to reproduce a list of the registered voters of Denison and



SCENE IN DENISON IN THE '70s

East Boyer townships in 1869. Nearly all of these names are familiar and many of them will recall volumes of history in and of themselves, and therefore we have decided to give this list the considerable space which it requires, believing that it will be of much interest:

"Charles Ainsworth, Allen Alcorn, Alonzo Abernethy, J. D. Ainsworth, Stephen Bassett, Joseph Brogden, B. W. Burk, James Burk, Edwin Bachelder, S. P. Blankenship, J. R. Bassett, R. P. Bartley, Judson Bond, A. F. Bond, Charles Bullock, L. Bundy, A. W. Coburn, F. W. Coburn, J. B. Coburn, A. B. Conyne, James M. Coleman, Martin Conroy, J. S. Comstock, G. D. Chapin, L. Cornwell, A. Cornwell, W. J. Cochran, Sen Cochran, Cornelius Crisp, William Crisp, T. Chapman, C. F. Cassaday, John Daily, George Dann, J. W. Denison, Thomas Doty Day, C. H. De Wolf, A. F. French, Thomas Finney, W. J. Graham, S. H. Brant, L. C. Goodrich, Isaac Gillmor, William Goodrich, John Gilbreath, Abner Graves, I. B. Goodrich, Daniel Gillett, James Greenough, Philetus Havelin, Reuben Heffelfinger, Milton Hendricks, W. E. Hitchcock, Thomas Hays, William Hart, Elmer Howe, D. D. Harkness, William Iseminger, John Kelley, John Killion, Andrew Kiser, Freeman Knowles, H. C. Laub, Thomas Luney, Samuel Luney, William Luney, Matthew Lewis, W. L. Lyon, Philip Lochmiller, Casper Lochmiller, Laughery, A. D. Molony, J. D. Miracle, Edward Miles, Michael Molony, Jr., Michael Molony, Sr., Thomas Morris, Hiram Matthews, Hugh McWilliams, David McWilliams, Albert Marshall, A. W. Manning, Cary Matthews, Morris McHenry, William McHenry, F. H. Morgan, J. L. McClellan, William Nixon, D. S. or C. D. Nash, E. P. Partridge, O. K. Prouty, Oscar Parker, W. A. Porter, Michael Riddle, N. Richards, James Rollins, Joseph Rankins, A. Rust, J. Robenalt, Moses Riddle, Daniel Riddle, James Smyth, Samuel B. Smyth, A. C. Smith, George Stephens, Samuel Sprecher, J. D. Seagraves, M. Stone, John Spear, Solomon Slater, James Slater, A. J. Seabury, I. C. Seabury, Joseph Smith, Rev. George Scott, Rev. B. Shinn, E. Van Vliet, H. H. Wescott, Marcus Wright, D. F. Woodruff, John West, N. J. Wheeler, Orville Wheeler, H. N. Wheeler, John Wade, James Williams, and William Weatherby.

It is hoped that by this time the reader has a picture in his mind of the little village as it was when the year 1870 dawned upon it. We confess that the history of the decade preceding is not as complete as it might be, but the material at hand is very limited, compiled from the memories of the older settlers, which memories are naturally incomplete and at times contradictory. In fact the written history of Denison begins practically with July, 1869, from which time the newspaper files of the city are available. Get well in mind a little village of from two hundred to three hundred population, a magnificent brick courthouse, thirty by forty feet in dimension, the palatial brick residence of Mr. Denison, the main street with its straggling line of frame business houses, the little brick school-house, the few scattered residences, the saloon where the Methodist church now stands, the depot with its cluster of lumber yards and elevators, in the district later christened by J. Fred Meyers as "the navy yard," and the mill down by the river, and you have almost a complete reproduction of the Denison of that day.

As we have noted, the time from the coming of the railroad to the panic of 1873 was one of prosperity and enterprise. The Baptist church was erected on

Main street; Albert Palmer located a blacksmith shop; J. L. McClellan leased the American House and changed its name to the Eagle Hotel; and the firm of McHenry & Brother, bankers, began its business career as a corporation on April 26, 1869. This business was a natural growth and marked an epoch in the advance of the village. As early as 1858 Morris McHenry as county treasurer had charge of the only safe in the county, so that he naturally became the custodian of what little idle money there was. This led to what became a banking business. The first written certificate of deposit was given to John Purdy in the spring of 1864. The first checks were drawn on Officer & Pusey's Bank, Council Bluffs, which was the commercial center of all western Iowa. After a few years checks were drawn on B. F. Allen's Bank, at Des Moines. In 1866 drafts were sold on Chicago and the business was extended until exchange was sold on New York and the principal European cities. In 1865 the business having grown too large for one man to handle, Morris McHenry took in with him as partner Mr. W. A. McHenry. No bank was organized, however, and we have before us a tax receipt issued to A. B. Conyne, March 8, 1865, on which appears the advertisement of Morris McHenry & Company, land and tax paying office. It was not until 1869 that this business was dignified with the name of a bank. In 1872 we find it noted that bank fixtures were received and in 1874 the town was electrified by the announcement that Morris McHenry & Brother had decided to build a brick bank building on the northwest corner of Main and Broadway, on the lot south of Mr. Cavanaugh's, the structure to be twenty-two by sixty-four feet and two stories high. Later these dimensions were increased by the purchase of additional ground from Mr. Cavanaugh, and villagers were delighted by the further announcement that a town hall would be included in the second story. This hall was the scene of all social, political and theatrical gatherings for many years.

In 1871 the erection of a brick residence by A. F. Bond, on the corner of Church and Pine street, was a notable event.

In 1870 among the business men there were H. N. Wheeler, justice of the peace; W. H. Nixon, painter; J. W. Denison, real estate, and later engaged in the lumber and grain business; J. D. Miracle, lawyer; Miles and Dann, carpenters; D. L. Gillette, proprietor Denison House; C. F. Cassaday, merchant; Heffelfinger & Co., hardware; O. K. Prouty, harnessmaker; C. H. De Wolf, lumber; S. Sprecher, groceries; Greenough & Bullock, drugs; H. C. Laub, general store; and Morris McHenry & Brother, bankers. Among the next newcomers was Mr. Claus Sievers, with his harness shop. J. S. Gilbreath established a broom factory in 1871; and in the same year there was agitation for the establishment of a cheese factory, which finally materialized, and opened for business in 1874 under the direction of D. D. Harkness, who soon shipped the first Crawford county cheese to the Chicago market. This factory was followed by a stock concern and the officers were as follows: E. S. Plimpton, president; J. W. Wightman, vice president; George W. Stephens, secretary; L. Cornwell, treasurer; and S. E. Thew, H. W. Gould, and C. F. Cassaday, directors.

During the early years the sidewalk question occupied that place in the public mind which the paving question does today. There were meetings of citizens and formations of associations. In 1873 an association was formed to build a sidewalk from Main street down Broadway to Locust, thence down Locust to

the depot. A. F. Bond was president, William McHenry, secretary, and L. A. Sewell, treasurer, while the subscription committee was composed of C. F. Cassaday, Morris McHenry, G. W. Fox, R. Heffelfinger, H. C. Laub, E. S. Plimpton and W. A. McHenry. The railroad company and the Providence Western Land Company each donated one hundred dollars for sidewalk purposes, and on May 13th the lumber arrived and operations commenced in earnest. The first street crossing ever made in the town was put down in 1872 by Messrs. Laub and Heffelfinger between their stores. The crossing from Cassaday's store to the Review office was the first one across which a loaded team passed, in 1873. Perhaps it would be interesting to note where that hard fought for sidewalk commenced and ended. According to the Denison paper, "The initial point is at Wheeler & Warner's lime house on the sidetrack at the depot, thence north past the residences of J. C. Burk, G. W. Fox, Dr. Iseminger, M. Stone—the lumber is on the ground for building in front of the Grave's lots—R. Heffelfinger; here a crossing takes you right to Charley Cassaday's gate; thence north again past the Eaton lots to the residence of E. Liddle, thence east past James Williams' and Morris McHenry's abodes, thence down the hill and up again past the Burk house barn. Here, for the time being, the walk terminates, but it will not be many days before Mr. Laub will have it completed around his premises, when you can go straight east to the corner, then north to Prouty's, thence across the street to the postoffice. From there you can go due north to the Denison residence, then west to the residence of W. A. McHenry, or you can come north to Cassaday's store and thence east across the street and then north to the Gardner House. This we believe to be the extent of the sidewalks as built up to this time. The crossings should be graded up as rapidly as possible and we trust that our road supervisor, Mr. McAhren, will lose no time in performing his part of the work. Here is an instance illustrative of what united efforts on the part of citizens can accomplish. Why not carry the same unison yet further, build more walks, and even organize a Citizens' Association for the purpose of not only encouraging but of building manufacturing interests here. With unison and capital, and capital will seek investment when it is encouraged, Denison can be made a large manufacturing town."

In 1873 Mr. Laub's magnificent brick building was completed and H. S. Gulick, of Clinton, erected a frame dwelling; B. H. Wiggins built a brick blacksmith shop immediately west of the Review office; Mr. Kuhn erected a residence; Lester's residence and photograph gallery assumed shape; C. F. Cassaday made arrangements for the erection of a store on Court avenue; Greenough & Bullock planned for the erection of a large two story brick; William Goodrich built a handsome residence; M. Stone built a grain and lumber office; Miss Horton built the building on Main street and established a millinery emporium; George W. Stephens erected a building east of Phinney's tailor shop for the establishment of a second printing office; Mr. Norman built a brick house in the western part of town and the Hird residence was erected south of the depot. Father Rust and A. McCarthy built themselves a home on Broadway. Among the other buildings of 1873 we note the residences of N. F. Smith, L. A. Sewell, W. W. Warlick, Ed Trowbridge, A. L. Barrett, Thomas Doty, R. M. Kuhn, L. J. Carter, S. S. Lewis, Harry Scaggs, Mr. Shangfeldt, Charles Wood, and George Chase;

Miller Brothers erected a store and residence; Ed Liddle a wagon and blacksmith shop, while the Catholic society erected the third church edifice of which the town boasted. It will be seen that 1873 was a busy year. It was in this year also that Mr. Sprecher sold his grocery to A. J. Bond and Milton Hendricks; John V. Patterson purchased an interest in Laub's store; C. Green burnt his first kiln of four hundred thousand brick; and on August 27, 1873, we find the following important announcement:

"Messrs. Miller Brothers recently purchased of R. Heffelfinger the lot now occupied by his warehouse, paying therefor the sum of four hundred dollars. Mr. Heffelfinger will move the warehouse to the rear of his store. The new firm will erect a building and engage in the grocery trade at present, with the intention of adding thereto dry goods, clothing, and boots and shoes." In the fall of the year we also find, "Miller Brothers hung out the first German sign last week that has ever appeared in this place." A. L. Barrett in this year began his career as a vender of meat; J. B. Dunbar came from Vermont and leased the Cornwell mill; Mr. H. C. Laub, having reached the ripe age of fifty years "is about to retire from active business, leaving the management to younger men;" the new firm was Laub & Company, the partners being G. W. Dewey, of New York; J. V. Patterson, of Ohio, and M. Y. Baker, of Baltimore. Asa Rust, who had been so long located on the southeast corner of Main and Tremont that "Rust's shop" as one of the land marks, moved to Broadway; the enterprising newspaper reporter rounding up the business of the town the last day of the year, 1873, learned that M. Stone had purchased 87,000 bushels of wheat; 2,500 bushels of barley; 2,000 bushels of corn, and 1,300 bushels of oats, and that since the 20th of August he had sold lumber to the amount of \$8,150. J. W. Denison bought 20,000 bushels of wheat; came to the amount of \$1,200; 30,000 lbs. of pork, and his lumber sales reached \$2,500. C. H. De Wolf since the 1st of August had sold lumber to the amount of \$7,000. The interesting reporter also adds: "The first dry goods and grocery store kept in Denison was owned by J. W. Denison in 1856, and was kept in the building now occupied by Rust's boot and shoe manufactory. In the same year, earlier in the season, the steam flouring mill of Reynolds and Company was drawn in by between ten and fifteen yoke of oxen on wagons."

The year 1874 started in high glee. The newly founded Bulletin boasts "Fifty is the number of houses we estimate that will be built in Denison this summer. If anyone will give us odds we will put it higher." The bank building was completed in this year; J. W. Strohm and his brother Frank erected an elevator, as did also Mr. M. Stone; the residence of J. B. Romans was built; C. Sprecher, who came to Denison after the tragic death of his brother, Samuel, erected a two story brick building near the depot; Trowbridge & Fox moved into their palatial new billiard hall. A subscription was raised to build a sidewalk connecting the Methodist church with the business part of town on one hand, and the residence of M. Stone on the other. The Luney Brothers pushed their foundry nearly to completion and this became an important feature of Denison's activities. In 1874 the Review changed hands and J. Fred Meyers purchased it from J. D. Ainsworth. P. McCormick, proprietor of the Denison Soap Factory began his business career; Ed Matthews and Frank Leshner formed a part-

nership and opened a restaurant in Wheeler Brother's old stand. Captain Familton, agent for the railroad land company, made Denison his headquarters. Great improvements were made upon the Cornwell mill; among the new business men of 1873-74 were M. H. Wygant, attorney; J. P. Conner, attorney; Tabor & Tabor, attorneys; L. A. Sewell, architect and builder; A. D. Lester, photographer; J. F. Burk, livery and feed stable; J. S. Nicholson and C. C. Donald, attorneys; George L. Wright, attorney; Charles Hitchcock, barber; and Mrs. Elizabeth Bieber, bakery in the Robinault building. Aaron Smith was proprietor of the Denison House, which he sold to Charles Blum, who defaulted and absconded after a brief career. The Denison papers also contain advertisements of J. T. Walker, physician and surgeon, at Vail; James De Wolf, notary public, etc., at Vail; L. E. Hardy, general merchant, at Dow City. The regular meetings of Devotion Lodge, A. F. & A. M. are also announced, with L. Cornwell, Worthy Master, and J. B. Poitevin, Secretary. Messrs. Fritz & McKim started a meat market, as did also S. P. Gardner, and James Boots, a mason and plasterer of Belle Plaine came to town; in the fall of the year Evers and Aebischer succeeded to the Gardner meat market business, and B. W. Burk retired from the Burk House, leaving it in control of J. F. Burk, while B. W. established a cash store. The buyers on the market were Strohm & Company, M. Stone, J. S. Gilbreath, and A. C. Smith.

As early as 1871 a movement was made to buy the cemetery site at a price of ten dollars per acre. This was later accomplished and an association formed, and in 1874 we find the following plaintive item: "Our attention has been directed to the bad condition of the grave yard south of town and request made that we call attention thereto. It certainly demands notice. The grounds are not fenced at all and the graves are trampled upon and tombstones destroyed by grazing herds of cattle and horses in a manner that is, to say the least, discreditable. What has become of the cemetery association?"

The question of incorporation was agitated as early as 1869. The village was still under township government. The opposition to incorporation came from three sources, those who felt that it meant increased taxation on general principles; those who feared that additional sidewalks would be ordered in; and those who felt that incorporation would mean added regulation and added license for saloons. A vote was taken in 1870, but failed to carry. In 1874 the Denison newspapers urged incorporation, using the following arguments:

Shall we Incorporate?—This question is again being agitated among some of our business men, and it is thought if the question were put to a vote it would carry by a large majority. About four years ago the question of incorporating was voted upon and lost, those opposing it claiming that it would be time enough to think of incorporating when our town should have doubled its population; that we are high and dry and did not then feel the need of sidewalks, and that it would be better to wait awhile and when we did incorporate we could make a better show, and the taxes would not fall so heavily upon a few individuals. The time has come when, for many reasons, the necessity of this step is apparent to all. Our town has more than doubled in population in the last two years, and is now building up rapidly. But there is no established grade, and every man builds according to the lay of his lot, whether it be higher or lower than his

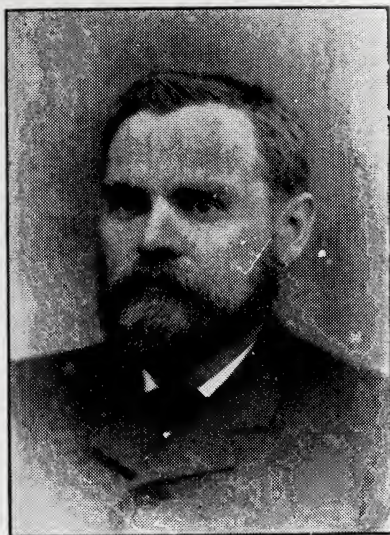
neighbors." What is everybody's business is nobody's, and the result is that there are a good many stepping-off places in the sidewalks that would not otherwise be there. As it is, it is not always safe for pedestrians, especially strangers unacquainted with the ups and downs of an average Western town. Denison is the only county seat on the line of the Northwestern railroad not incorporated, and, if it does not already, it soon will have a tendency to drive away many who would otherwise make their homes here. To outsiders this may seem a lack of enterprise on the part of our citizens, but to those who are acquainted, considering the various private and public schemes by which our present sidewalks have been built, this seeming lethargy will have no weight. Our people are public-spirited enough, but there is not that unity of spirit which would prevail were we living under incorporation laws. It would raise the taxes some, but then we could go slow for the first year or two; what we want is a beginning, and a good time to make a beginning is now. An established grade is loudly called for as one of the first items. .

An election was ordered on this question, Judge Stockton appointing H. C. Laub, A. F. Cassaday, C. H. De Wolf, James Greenough, and Charles Tabor as commissioners. The election was held in October, the vote being forty-four ayes and sixty-six nays. The agitation did not cease, however, and in 1875 the question was again brought forward. This year the circuit appointed Charles Bullock, B. H. Wiggins, E. S. Plimpton, H. C. Laub, and R. Heffelfinger commissioners to conduct the election, which was held October 2, 1875. At this election the vote to incorporate was carried, one hundred and sixteen to fifty-five. A mass meeting was held for the nomination of the first city officers. The nominees were, for mayor, H. C. Laub; recorder, A. Carpenter; assessor, George Scott; trustees, Ward Matthews, C. F. Cassaday, J. W. Wagoner, C. H. De Wolf, and John Seeman. Later a second ticket was placed in the field and A. F. Bond was nominated for mayor. The contest was a lively one and A. F. Bond was elected the first mayor of Denison by a majority of forty-nine votes. The other officers were those nominated at the general caucus. The first council met November 4, 1875, and J. L. McClellan was elected the first marshal. At this time the population of Denison was 857; that of the township, 1123. The question of incorporation had been so long delayed and debated that Vail held its election prior to the one in Denison, and thus has the honor of being the first incorporated town in Crawford county.

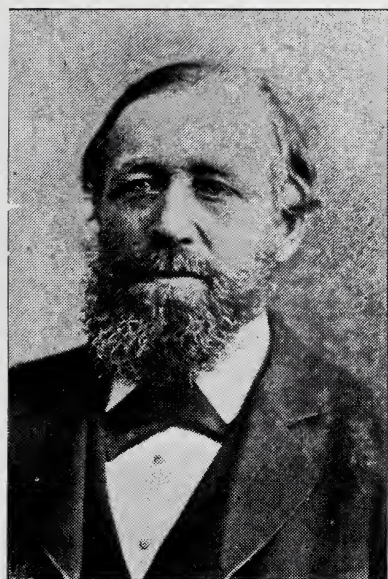
Another evidence of civic improvement was found in the formation of a Denison protective association. A large number of citizens met at Cassaday's store for the purpose of considering the propriety of employing a night watchman in the business portion of the town as a means of protection against fire and burglaries. A permanent organization was formed with George Hayne as president, James Greenough, treasurer and George W. Stephens, secretary. A committee of five was appointed to receive proposals for a watchman, to name the beat to be walked and to report at a later meeting. This meeting was held July 1, 1875, and a week later we find the following news item: "About five hundred dollars has been subscribed, payable monthly, for a night watchman and at a public meeting held last Thursday evening Mr. Holst, a well disposed Ger-



Night-Watch L. M. Baer



J. P. Miller, First German Merchant



Hugh McWilliams



Samuel Luney

GROUP OF DENISON PIONEERS

man, was designated. He was succeeded by L. M. Baer, who faithfully filled the office for many years, until his death.

In 1871 the Presbyterian church had been built and dedicated and the two story brick schoolhouse, erected in the same year, was the pride of all the country around and spoke volumes for the premanency of the town. It was in this period that the courthouse was enlarged to double its size. The people projected a narrow gauge railroad from Harlan to Denison, and this was discussed at great length in the papers. In 1871 Denison had the first of its series of brass bands, the obituary of which is humorously written in a Denison paper in 1874. Jay Wheeler is said to have officiated and the pall bearers are given as Mort Sayre, Nels Wheeler, W. A. McHenry and Charlie Bullock, while the chief mourners were Orr Wheeler, George Gillette, Will McHenry, Jim Ainsworth, True Daniells and George Stephens. There were numerous efforts at a social life. A lyceum was organized at the courthouse with C. C. Donald as chairman and J. P. Conner as secretary. In January, 1874, the still living question was debated, "Resolved that railroad tariffs should be regulated by the state law." The chief disputants were George L. Wright, affirmative, and J. P. Conner negative.

In 1873 it is recorded with much pride that there were twenty-four organs, seven pianos and two melodeons owned in Denison, not to speak of numerous violins, guitars, banjos, brass horns and cats. That the German emigration had already commenced is evidenced not only by the first German sign being hung out by Miller Brothers but by the fact that in July, 1874, it is announced that the Germans of Crawford county will celebrate the Fourth at Trumm's Grove, just across the river south of town. In 1875 Mr. John Seeman built the hotel which was the rallying point of the German people for many years, and he christened it "The Farmers' Home." The growth of the county is illustrated by the statement that McHenry Brothers sold two thousand acres in the week prior to April 10th, 1872; in the latter part of May, 1873, Captain Familton is reported to have sold ten thousand acres since March 1st; again it is reported that he sold between twenty-five thousand and thirty thousand acres during the year 1873. April 7, 1875, we find the following note: "Captain Familton sold eleven hundred and twenty acres to eight actual settlers (Germans) last Saturday." Excursion trains were run and numerous land buyers were brought in. In January, 1876, it was stated that "Fair prairie lands can be bought for from seven to ten dollars per acre, but choice lands will soon be out of the market." In the spring of the same year we note the following item, indicating the inrush of the German citizens: "We have it upon good authority that if the crops prove good the coming season more than twice the number of German emigrants will come here next spring than have arrived the past few weeks. There are now living in Scott and Clinton counties scores of people, who in view of the fertility and cheapness of the Crawford county lands have resolved to purchase homes in this agricultural El Dorado of the west." And again, "There arrived in Denison during the month of March, 1876, sixty-seven carloads of emigrants' goods and forty cars of lumber." The total sale of lands for 1875 is reported for Crawford county as ten thousand, five hundred and eight acres. All this brought continued prosperity to the little town.

The Denison library association was formed in 1875 and this gave a series of dramatic entertainments, producing the comic drama, "Temptation, or The Irish Emigrant;" the "Yankee Peddler, or Old Times in Virginia," and other interesting productions. The result was the establishment of a school library in April, 1876, which may be said to have been the father of the McKim Library and the grandfather of the Carnegie Library of today. Shortly after the library opened the Review proudly notes: "Upward of twenty-five citizens have already availed themselves of the benefits of the library. Sixty-six additional volumes have already been received and fifty more will be added." "The institution is exceedingly well patronized," states the paper at a latter date, "about thirty volumes being constantly out. By next fall one hundred more volumes will be added." In 1876 our lecture course had its beginning. "Thirty gentlemen subscribed two dollars and a half each for the purpose of securing a course of lectures." Those of the more worldly desired to dance but there were difficulties in the way, as is evidenced by the following item: "The ball which was announced for tomorrow evening has been abandoned, Mr. Morris McHenry having for conscientious reasons refused the use of the hall. He paid all expenses incurred, amounting to thirty-six dollars." In spite of this puritanical effort on the part of Mr. McHenry it would appear that Denison was not all that it should have been, for in the spring of 1876 it is reported that, "There was a general exodus of gamblers from Denison Tuesday morning. Three poker players with their wives took their departure for greener fields. There were none to mourn their loss save the fools whom they have gulled. Gambling seems to be altogether too prevalent in this community."

In 1875 the population of the country is given as follows: Denison township, 1,123; Milford, 643; West Side, 629; Union, 442; Otter Creek, 361; East Boyer, 355; Stockholm, 334; Hayes, 315; Jackson, 264; Goodrich, 258; Washington, 239; Boyer, 224; Iowa, 223; Paradise, 162; Soldier, 101; Nishnabotny, 98; Morgan, 91; Willow, 77; Charter Oak, 63; Hanover, 36; total, 6,038.

In September, 1875, occurred the greatest sensation which Denison has yet known. This was a fight between residents and circus men, which assumed the proportions of a riot and which promised for a time to end in the wholesale destruction of the business district. We have obtained many and various accounts of this sensational episode and as we believe it is of sufficient interest, especially to the old timers, we give the account of the affair as published in the Denison Review of September 17, 1873:

A TERRIBLE FIGHT!

THREE OF GRADY'S SHOWMEN SHOT—A LIVELY TIME AT ED. TROWBRIDGE'S BILLIARD HALL—THE SCENE ON THE STREET—THE GLASS FRONT OF GREENOUGH & BULLOCK'S STORE SMASHED—A SEVERE STRUGGLE FOR THE MONEY DRAWER.

"On Thursday of last week, as per previous notice, Grady's circus and menagerie gave an exhibition in Denison.

"The streets were filled at an early hour, and it was estimated that about 2,000 persons were in town to see the show, which began to arrive at about ten a. m.

The circus wagons were formed into a procession and paraded the streets around one block several times, and then repaired to the grounds upon which their huge canvass tents were being erected.

"Early in the morning it was reported that one of the showmen had been shot through the leg by the Marshal of Carroll, at which place they had exhibited the day before, and that the man was unable to come with them. It was also further reported that a number of thieves and blacklegs were traveling with the circus, and that our citizens would have to watch them close, which they very naturally did, and succeeded in foiling several attempts of petty thieving.

"The circus entertainment in the afternoon was conducted in the best possible manner, and everything passed off satisfactorily to all in attendance, with the single exception of the much-talked-of balloon ascension, which did not 'pass off' to any degree of satisfaction to those who had never witnessed an ascension, owing it was said, to the wind being so strong that it was impossible to attempt it.

"After the entertainment was over, quite a severe rain and wind storm came up, which continued nearly all night, and made it impossible for Grady to give an evening entertainment, which he had intended to do, and consequently his men were going to have a high old time, as they termed it, and about fifteen or twenty of them went down to Ed. Trowbridge's Billiard hall, where they seemed to enjoy themselves in drinking and playing billiards.—But they soon began to get noisy, and those who did not belong to their crowd began to get back into the corners out of their way. It was evident that a big fight was brewing, and quite a number left the hall to seek a place of more peaceful proportions, and when it became apparent that the town people were thinning out, the showmen began to mutter angry threats that they would clean out the d—d town. No attention, however, was paid to these foolish threats, and the drinking continued to go on in a lively manner.

"The bar-room adjoining the billiard hall is quite small—being long but scarcely wide enough to let two men pass. There were about eight or ten showmen and three or four men from the country, at the bar drinking, when Wm. Hubbel, who lives on Maple Creek, came in. The showmen undertook to crowd him out, and then the trouble commenced.—Hubbel, who is a large and powerful man, was shoved out into the billiard room where he succeeded in knocking several of them down, but was immediately struck on the head with a heavy billiard cue and knocked to the floor, where they continued to kick and pound him in a fearful manner—breaking two heavy oak cues over his head. But he made his escape from them and got outside the building, when he was taken to the drug store of Messrs. Greenough & Bullock to have his head bound up. When Hubbel made his escape, the showmen struck Isaac Jones, who lives on Soldier Creek, and who was also in the room at the time, with a billiard ball and knocked him down. He fought well, but it was no use, and he was served in about the same manner that Hubbel was. The two men had a most desperate struggle for life, but succeeded in getting off with badly bruised bodies and heads.

"Jones and one or two of the showmen were taken to Kirk's drug store to get their wounds dressed, after which the circus-men became more furious than ever, and all started across the road toward Greenough & Bullock's store where Hubbel was being cared for. The howling and cursing was terrible as they

came in front of the store and got a glimpse of Hubbel, who had started to come out, and then the fight commenced in earnest. The first showman that struck the porch in front of the door, was caught by the collar and one ear and thrown upon the walk immediately in front of the door, when some person stepped quickly to his side and fired two shots into his body. The store was full of men—several showmen being among the number, and when the first shot was fired, the door was shut and lights put out, and the noise and confusion was terrible. Those upon the outside were shooting into the store and shivering the glass front to atoms, while those upon the inside were getting out of the back door as fast as possible. But it seems that what few showmen were in the building were bent on plunder, and two or three succeeded in getting behind the counter where the money drawer was kept. The robbers were met by Messrs. G. & B., and after a severe struggle were driven from behind the counter, and made their escape through the back door. In the fight for the money drawer, which contained about \$200, Mr. Greenough received a severe blow upon the back with a heavy club, but he succeeded in reaching the drawer before any money was taken.

"During the fight a lamp was struck and knocked to the floor, the oil igniting and setting one side of the store on fire. Mr. Greenough seized a broom and tried to put out the blaze, when they commenced to shoot at him from the outside. The bright light afforded by the burning oil placed him in a dangerous position, and two of the bullets barely missed his head. But he bravely stood his ground until the fire was extinguished, and the fearful fight had stopped. Much credit is due to the handsome manner in which Messrs. Greenough & Bullock defended their property. Not many men would have stood the test as they did, and they have not to thank many but themselves for the safety of their store and stock. About ten shots were fired in quick succession—one man receiving three of them, two in the bowels and one in his left arm. He was carried to the Burk House where he now lies in a critical condition, attended by Dr. Iseminger. Of the other two who were shot, one received a ball through the thigh—similar to the one who was shot at Carroll; the other was shot in the breast, the ball passing across the skin just over the heart. The last two were taken to Dunlap the next morning on the cars. The greatest wonder after the fight was over, was that no one but the showmen had got shot—none of the citizens or country men being hurt during the fight with pistols. But three whole panes of glass were left in the front of the store, and the heavy glass in both show-cases was mashed to atoms, while many of the fine glass covered display cards were badly damaged."

Denison was the center of a large trade territory. The insufficiency of the railway service for western Iowa is shown by the numerous mail routes which radiated from the Denison office long after the railroad passed through here. In 1871 Hiram Matthews was one of the carriers on the route from Denison to Storm Lake. In 1872 a petition was circulated asking for a mail route from Harlan to Denison. This was established in 1874 and the people then asked for a route extending into Monona county and accommodating the people at Charter Oak. The Harlan route went by way of Coon Grove and another route went to Sac City by way of Deloit and Odebolt. In 1875 a route from Denison to

Listonville (now Danbury) was established and later a route to Ida, by way of Morgan and Snidersville. In 1879 George Baizebrown drove the mail to Odebolt, while A. D. Molony had the Harlan contract. A postoffice at Como was abolished and once a week mail facilities established between Denison and Charter Oak. The mail facilities were often badly interrupted. For five days in 1875 there was no mail on account of high water, and it is said the daily papers arrived about twice a week. In September, of 1875, Denison witnessed a disastrous flood. The paper commented as follows: "Denison had no communication from the rest of the world from Thursday night of last week until yesterday. Travel by rail, and by every other means, was most effectually stopped. The Boyer river overflowed its banks on Friday and the water has been alternately rising and receding ever since. On Monday morning it reached its greatest height, carrying away a number of bridges, among them the Furr and the Luney bridges. The water reached the sills of the Luney machine shops and all the buildings in the vicinity of the depot south and west were more or less under water. By working lively the Messrs. Luney saved a pile of boards from floating off."

1876 saw the last of the picturesque old-time political campaigns. The Hayes and Wheeler minute men were formed and had most enthusiastic times. The Review of August 23, 1876, says: "The procession on Friday night with seventy torches in line was a splendid success. It was headed by a band of martial music and flag bearers and was the finest display ever seen in Denison. The procession marched through several streets, giving cheers before the homes of Mr. Heffelfinger, Morris McHenry and others. When the procession arrived below the lawn of Mayor Bond, where the temperance ladies had a party, numerous cheers were given. Every one was well pleased. The club will shortly organize a campaign glee club and we have no doubt but that the next procession will be still more imposing."

By 1875 Denison claimed to be becoming quite a manufacturing town. Among the shipments were soap, cheese, brick and agricultural implements, all made in Denison. There was a new lumber yard opened by R. K. Clark and C. P. Stocking, of Marshalltown. A number of the merchants got together and formed a trade agreement by which the lines of business were somewhat divided. The divisions in the lines of trade were as follows: General merchandise, Laub & Hayne; dry goods, C. F. Cassaday, Ward Matthews; clothing and furniture, Plimpton & McHenry; groceries, M. H. Hendricks, M. J. Burk & Son, Peter Miller, C. Sprecher; boots and shoes, Brown & Depew. Later in the year a bookstore was established on Court street, with L. T. Carr as proprietor. Messrs. Lee & Seebern established a photograph gallery; Dr. Holmes bought the Gardner House; Nixon & Stallcop established an agricultural implement warehouse and Laub & Hayne put upon our streets the first delivery wagon. In 1876 Mr. Jensen, of Clinton, entered the field as a dry goods merchant, having his store next to Judson Mead's, on Main street. The year 1876 also witnessed the establishment of a new bank by R. Heffelfinger. This was called Heffelfinger's Bank, but the name was soon changed to that of the Crawford County Bank. Mr. J. V. Patterson had the honor of introducing the first hearse, "it being painted in good style by Mr. Hotchkiss, making a creditable appearance." Mr. Kendall erected a block of three store fronts on the south side of Broad-

way, one of which was occupied by R. Knaul as a drug store until he moved into his own building on Court avenue, in 1879. It was in 1879 also that A. D. Wilson bought the interest of Mr. Wall in a hardware stock and the firm became Wygant & Wilson. It was in this year that Mr. Cassaday leased the Commercial House, of which he was proprietor for a number of years. During the later years of this decade M. Goldheim, one of the most successful merchants Denison has ever know, came to the city. His coming revolutionized the business ideas of the community and in fact benefited all the merchants by inspiring them to added activities. Mr. Laub also retired from the mercantile business, being succeeded by Kirkwood & McCall. J. B. Romans came first as a clerk for Mr. Laub and later established the great hardware and agricultural implement concern which still bears his name.

In closing this decade of our county history we quote at some length from a so-called boom edition. The Review says:

"Denison is a village of fifteen hundred inhabitants; we have no municipal or school debts, and we have two schoolhouses with ample facilities for six schools. We have six churches, all very nearly free from debt, German Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Episcopalian. Crawford county has a population of only twelve thousand, which is less than seventeen inhabitants to every section of land. Only one-third of the land is in cultivation and much yet remains in the hands of non-residents. Uncultivated lands range in price from four to twelve dollars per acre. The most competent judges estimate the yield per acre of the late wheat crop at eighteen bushels, and of the corn crop at forty bushels. This is, at the rate of one dollar per bushel for wheat, eighteen dollars per acre. Making every allowance for the cost of production, marketing, etc., it leaves ten dollars clear, or more than the average cost of the land. Corn is about twenty-five cents per bushel and, aside from the corn stalks, the income is ten dollars per acre. But it is when corn, oats, etc., are fed to cattle, hogs and sheep that the farmer reaps the greatest reward. Crawford county has ten thousand sheep and their number is rapidly increasing. There are several farmers whose income from sheep alone has been from two thousand to three thousand dollars per year. This county has a comfortable courthouse which, with the square, is worth thirty thousand dollars. It has a poor farm worth ten thousand; it has more than two hundred buildings, worth one hundred thousand dollars; it has nearly one hundred schoolhouses, worth eighty thousand dollars; it has twelve or more churches, worth thirty thousand dollars; it has many good roads and a staple and respectable society, and no county debt. All warrants are at par and what we have is substantially paid for. Men who came from England, Germany and the east five years since, not worth a dollar, have opened up fine farms and have mostly paid for the same. The man who cannot get his living in Crawford county will find the cause of failure within himself and not in the situation."

This "boom" edition was a great Christmas advertising number and we give the list of advertisers as an index to the business of the town and county. The list is as follows:

"E. S. Plimpton, clothing; W. A. McHenry's Bank, successor to McHenry Brothers; The Crawford County Bank, R. Heffelfinger, proprietor, D. W. Shaw,

assistant cashier; Bond Brothers, furniture; O. C. Johnson, music store; A. E. Wilbur, general merchandise at Deloit; J. F. Powers, furniture at Vail; A. L. Strong, general merchandise, Vail; J. P. Fitch, lumber yard, Vail; E. M. Gregory, drugs; Greenough & Bullock, drugs; J. T. Marriott, general merchandise, Dow City; L. E. Hardy & Co., general merchandise, Dow City; Dow, Graves & Company, lumber and implements, Dow City; Evans & Louthan, drugs, Dow City; N. Staininger, jeweler; C. H. De Wolf, lumber; J. B. Romans, hardware and implements; Claus Sievers, harness; J. F. Holst, B. Robinault, and C. Griffiths, shoe makers; John Peterson, wagon maker; attorneys, I. T. Roberts, Tabor & Tabor, M. S. Sayre, at Denison; Franklin C. Platt, Dow City; A. A. Leachey, Vail; Burch & Van Kuran, Dunlap; C. Haldane, West Side; physicians, H. H. Hoagland, William Iseminger, Mrs. Dr. Emma Cornwall, Denison; B. S. Louthan, Dow City; Ed. Darling, Vail; L. L. Bond, West Side; Dr. D. H. Gill, dentist; Harry Wade, house mover; W. J. Wagoner, real estate; L. T. Carr, bookstore; S. H. Clausin, jewelry; R. Knaul, druggist; S. P. Gardner, insurance; Miss S. Schmeutsch and Mrs. Stocks, dry goods and millinery; Hotchkiss & Hunt, painters; J. H. De Wolf, Citizens Bank, Vail; John S. Lewis, hotel, Dow City; W. C. Hillas, general merchandise, Dow City; Taylor & Johnson, hardware, West Side; J. E. Rule, harness, Dow City; Kirkwood & McCall, general merchants, Denison; M. H. Hendricks, groceries; Wygant & Wilson, hardware; M. Goldheim, king clothier; J. P. Miller, general merchandise; Jacob Peterson, variety store; E. S. Plimpton, general merchandise; A. Lewis, bakery; Darling & Steel, furniture; Ed Eaton, harness; D. M. Goodale & Company, general merchandise; B. F. Leshner, restaurant; the J. B. Close land agency, in charge of D. M. Wallace; Mrs. J. C. White, millinery; Mrs. Familton, millinery; Mrs. J. W. Denison, fancy goods; and J. S. Nesbit, restaurant at Vail."

By this you will see that the close of the year 1879 saw all lines of business well represented and that it marked the close of what must really be considered the most prosperous decade of Denison's history.

While Denison prospered during these ten years the county as a whole had not a few discouragements. Whereas corn sold for a dollar a bushel in 1869, by 1876 the price had fallen so that we find the following newspaper reference: "We place it on record for future reference that the cash price of corn on the cob is twenty cents per hundred lbs., or four dollars a ton. As soft coal is five dollars a ton we are not sure but that corn is the cheaper fuel."

Not only were market conditions bad during these years but the county suffered from severe winters, devastating hailstorms, disastrous prairie fires and terrific winds and cyclones. In 1874 there was a hailstorm in the southern part of the county in which the hail fell in ragged chunks of ice of large size, that easily penetrated the siding of houses, knocked the shingles off buildings and almost utterly destroyed the crops. According to newspaper report one boy who was caught out in this storm had an arm broken by the hail, besides sustaining other injuries on account of which his life was despaired of. On July 24, 1874, there was another severe hailstorm. It crossed the Boyer at George Buss' place in the western part of the county, injuring his crops and those of George Biddle, Joel Ernst, Will and Vint McHenry, Butterworth, Young and others, then it went over Pretty Prairie, in the vicinity of Edmund Howorth's

place, and thence to the Nishnabotny. The crops on the W. A. McHenry farm were almost totally destroyed and in the Swede settlement there was a light visitation. In the spring of 1874 there were several floods, the highest since 1867.

Prairie fires were a great menace and great losses were sustained in 1872. In October, 1874, prairie fires swept nearly every part of the county and the damage caused was estimated to be thousands of dollars. There was a high wind and the old settlers claimed that they had never seen such prairie fires as on that day. In Otter Creek township a heavy fire came up from the west. A vacant house on the Baker farm was destroyed and all the people of the township had to turn out and fight the fire. At Vail Mr. Forest, Mr. M. H. Smith and Mr. J. Clark sustained losses. At Dow City Judge Dow lost one hundred tons of hay and the fire raged through Buck Grove and Coon Grove. Near Dunlap little Eva Atwood, aged five years, daughter of Dr. H. S. Atwood, while looking at the blaze was frightfully burned by being overtaken by and falling down in the fire. Her little brother, with great presence of mind, divested her of all clothing, but the fire had done its work too well as the child had breathed the flames and died within twelve hours. As late as 1879 the whole northern portion of Denison was endangered by a sweeping prairie fire.

Still another great discouragement which had reflex action upon the prosperity of Denison, was in the great grasshopper plagues which swept the county in 1873, 1874, 1875 and 1876. In August, 1873, it is reported that "There is no more humbug about the grasshopper business. They have come for certain this time and reports reach us from neighboring towns that they are doing much damage in the way of destroying crops." A correspondent under date of August 4th says, "The grasshoppers have arrived safely at Dowville and are foraging in regular army style. They seem to be as fond of radishes, onions, and mustard as of the milder varieties of vegetables. One farmer says he has twenty-five acres of corn manufactured into bean poles; another says his forty acres of corn will not be worth harvesting. The air is thick with them as they come down like showers of snow. We just received an order from Bond & Hendricks for a barrel of cabbage, but we are sorry to say we have disposed of our entire crop to the grasshoppers. The width of territory they are covering is about twenty miles and reaches from about three miles west of Denison to three miles west of Dunlap."

In 1874 a determined fight was made against the grasshoppers. Otis Grout, of Paradise township, made a grasshopper crusher which was ridiculed by many who were afterward glad to borrow it. The machine is described as follows: "Imagine three hogsheads, or large barrels—two in front four feet apart, and one following four feet in the rear, between the rear and front sits the driver. This machine is drawn by two horses over the wheat fields and the grasshoppers seeing it coming try to escape by jumping between the two front rollers, but are caught by the rear roller before they have time to make another jump. On Saturday this combination of rollers was used all day on Mr. Dow's farm and was kept continually greasy with the mutilated bodies of grasshoppers."

In 1875 there was another visitation, although the insects lighted for the most part in Harrison, Cass and Pottawattamie counties. In June of 1875 the grasshoppers passed over Denison in countless millions. Immense numbers of

them dropped and commenced their havoc in gardens, eating out cabbages, onions, peas, etc., clean and smooth. Many fields of grain within a few miles of town were completely destroyed. Toward evening of the second day, however, they commenced to rise and the farmers were greatly rejoiced. In 1876 state and national subsidies were urged to exterminate this plague and the farmers were urged to spend the fall season in dragging their fields in order to destroy the grasshopper eggs. In 1879 millions of grasshoppers emigrated in a southeasterly direction high over Denison. The newspaper reporter fervently adds, "May they have a safe journey clear down to the Gulf of Mexico."

High winds swept frequently over the prairies and many will remember the severe storms which struck Denison. These were sometimes in the nature of a straight blow, and at other times in the nature of a cyclone. It was a straight blow which moved the Catholic church more than a foot from its foundation while it was filled with people one evening during a mission service. A small cyclone destroyed a barn on the Woolston farm south of town. In June of 1879 a small tornado passed over Charter Oak and Hanover townships. It blew down a house and severely injured a Mrs. Edwards. Edward, the nine year old son of Charles Weed, was blown from his horse and rendered unconscious. The great cyclone and the only one of first magnitude which this county has ever known, passed over the northwestern part of the county in the spring of 1878.

This cyclone swept through Hanover, Goodrich, Otter Creek and Stockholm townships. Six lives were lost and the freaks of the great storm were many. Mr. E. Fink, who saw the wind cloud as it swept along tells us how it dipped down to earth here and there destroying everything in its path and then rose again. Ample relief was afforded the sufferer both by the county and by private benevolence and it is sincerely to be hoped that the county will never again suffer from a like visitation.

It is indeed a wonder that in spite of these many discouragements the town of Denison grew as if by magic, the county filled constantly with settlers, land values increased, and this became one of the most prosperous and promising counties of the state. It is no wonder that the Denison optimist proclaimed that "when the next census is taken, in 1880, it will be found that Crawford county will have more than doubled its population in ten years. In 1870 its population numbered 6,039; in 1880 it will number 13,000 in any event and should we have a prosperous harvest and a heavy emigration next spring it will reach 14,000."

CHAPTER XX

A YEAR BOOK OF HISTORY.

1880-1900.

Strange as it may seem the most difficult portion of this history is that relating to comparatively recent years. Sufficient time has not elapsed for the value of accurate data to be apparent, and in the busy rush of modern life few people take time to make a permanent record of current events. In this respect we are like the famous Arkansas farmer, who found that he did not need to mend his roof in dry weather and that he couldn't mend it when it rained. So long as we remember things there seems to be little need of recording them, and when they are forgotten, we can't. The writer has, therefore, been obliged to rely very largely upon such newspaper files as could be obtained. Unfortunately, entire volumes of these are missing and it is thus impossible to write a connected story of the later years of Denison and of the county. The best that can be done is to give a series of somewhat disconnected facts, that will, however, give a picture of the changing conditions and the gradual development of the last thirty years.

This is not to be an essay but it is hard to refrain from commenting upon the surprisingly small value of the newspaper as an historical document. How quickly the events of the day become unimportant, how soon the "burning issues" burn themselves out and how after the lapse of a few years the personal squabbles, the political debates, the continued criminations and re-criminations become absurd and beneath the dignity of the writers and of the community. In preparing this history, hour after hour has been spent with the newspaper files and one cannot but be tempted to philosophize over the great waste of brains and ink and paper, over the heart burnings which must have been felt, over the bitternesses engendered, over the time and thought and reading power that has been expended in following the play of politics and personalities in our county press.

Denison in 1880 was a town of less than 1,500 inhabitants. The county boasted a population of about 13,000. Good lands were available at \$10.00 an acre. Captain Familton reports that "inquiries for land are brisk" and adds that "when a \$10.00 bill will buy an acre of the most fertile land in the west, who would not invest for himself and children." It was the wise man who followed

this advice who is the wealthy and substantial citizen of the county to-day. At the opening of the period of which we write only one-third of the land of the county was under cultivation and much land remained in the hands of non-residents. Uncultivated lands ranged in price from \$4.00 to \$12.00. These were mostly rolling prairies, their rough appearance frightened many farmers and it was not until a few of the most venturesome proved the value of our uplands that they were generally utilized. The average wheat yield at that time was estimated at eighteen bushels to the acre and of corn, forty bushels. Wheat sold at \$1.00 per bushel and it was estimated that one successful crop would almost pay for the land. There were 10,000 sheep in the county at that time and the cattle industry was assuming large proportions. The county was out of debt, and the people were eager, full of life, and energy. There were comparatively few old people in the county and there were none who had voluntarily retired, all were active and striving, with their fortunes still to make. Denison was a shipping point of much importance. Four hundred and fifty-four carloads of grain was shipped from Denison during the last four months of 1879 and during the same period the stock shipments were fifty-four carloads, while one hundred and thirty-seven carloads of lumber were received. The leading manufacturing industry of Denison was the Luney Foundry and Machine Works. This was operated by water power and a mill was soon built in connection. The chief industries of the place were the banks, the land agencies, and retail merchandise.

The main line of the Chicago Northwestern was the only railroad in the county. The towns were West Side, Vail, Denison, Dowville, while there were beginnings of settlements at Old Kiron, in the German township of Morgan and in the vicinity of Charter Oak. The early 80's were times of great prosperity. The German immigration was the chief factor. This ever increasing tide of new people brought new money to the locality, stimulated activity in all trades and in every line of business. It will be found that the majority of the farm houses now standing in Crawford county were erected between 1880 and 1890. We have previously recorded when the daring merchant J. P. Miller flung the first German sign to the breeze in Denison, but by 1880 the German influence was the predominating one in the county. It was during these years that the Germania Verein was organized and the opera house erected, the officers at that time being Rudolph Knaul, H. Schwartz, H. C. Schluter, J. P. Miller, J. F. Holst, Julius Lehfeldt and Herman Schultz.

1884.

The year 1884 was marked by a cyclone which devastated parts of Union and Washington townships and which recalled that ever memorable Easter Sunday when the most destructive cyclone of our history made such sorry work in the northern part of the county, killing several citizens, destroying the homes of more than a dozen settlers, and striking terror to the hearts of all and putting our people in constant fear of a repetition of the great disaster. Among other events of 1884 was the death of Isaac C. Goodrich, who was one of the oldest and most honored settlers of the county, having lived here 29 years and having

played a large part in the early development of the county and of the township which was named for him.

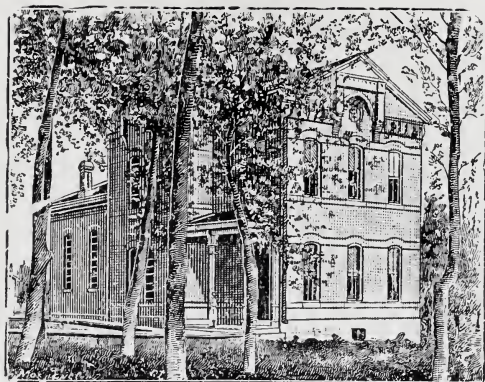
It was in the early 80's that the second railroad was put through the county. This was the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, which constructed a line from Chicago to Council Bluffs. This railroad created two new market towns in the southern part of the county, one at Aspinwall in Iowa township, the other at Astor in Nishnabotny township. It was in 1884 that this railroad proposed a branch line to Sioux City. It was at first intended to run this line out of Astor via Denison to the vicinity of Charter Oak and then on to Sioux City. It was at this time that Denison made the greatest mistake in its history. Instead of realizing that the advent of another railroad would give it great added importance, advantage in freight rates, and make it at once an important center, it was felt that it would but establish new market places, draw trade from Denison, and be an injury to the city. A public meeting was held at which it was decided that Denison did not want the new railroad and such opposition was made that the line was surveyed, and later was built, as it now stands, via Arion and Charter Oak. There is no reason to believe that our citizens did not act according to their best judgment, but it is nevertheless a fact that had this line been built as originally intended Denison would have been a city of much larger population and of much more importance as a shipping point than it is to-day. The history of Denison like the history of any individual shows many mistakes as well as many good deeds, but we consider that this was the greatest mistake which Denison as a city ever made. The result was that the line was built creating the competitive market points dreaded, and giving to Denison none of the advantages which it would have had had it been on the great Milwaukee system. It was in this way that the southern and western parts of the county were shut off from direct communication with the county seat, a thing which has cost Denison many thousands of dollars and much loss in its predominating position in the county.

The year 1884 nevertheless saw many changes and improvements. The firm of Sherrard and Bamford commenced business, Hugh Menagh started a lumber yard, the Goldheim building was enlarged, Block and Heyman came as clothing merchants, the DeWolf lumber yard was sold to Scriver and Co. of Wausau, Wis., the firm of Garrison and Roberts dissolved partnership, J. Fred Meyers repurchased the Review, from Wrigley Bros., who had been its owners for a short time. This year also witnessed the closing of the Crawford County Bank under the management of R. Hefflefinger and its reorganization by a number of the substantial business men of the town. It is noteworthy that the closing of this bank created so little disturbance in the general business of the community.

Among the advertisers in our Denison papers in 1884 we find the following: Conner and Shaw, D. L. Boynton, T. J. Garrison, Wright and Leachey, F. B. Huckstep, attorneys; physicians, Dr. Emma Cornwall, Dr. Colburn, Dr. J. J. McWilliams, Iseminger and Wright, L. L. Bond, West Side. M. L. Allan, Astor. Isaac Bixler, auctioneer; W. J. Wagoner, real estate; T. W. Garbe, dentist; M. Goldheim, clothier; Bond Bros., furniture; E. M. Hoff, photographer; J. L. Bidlack, merchandise, Astor; Sherrard and Bamford, J. B. Romans Co., hardware; Crawford county bank, Schlumberger and Wrigley, drugs; S. E.

Grant, marble works; C. C. Gleiser, merchandise, Astor; Alexander Ludlum, Astor; Peace and Theobald, lumber, Astor; L. T. Carr, book store; Penney and Morgan, merchandise; Herman Schultz, implements; Archie Steele, furniture; Abiescher Bros., meat market, Wygant and Wilson, hardware; McAhren and Evers, drugs; Mahler's boot and shoe store; A. J. Bond, jewelry. Dow City: Brake Bros., furniture; Lewis and Sims, drugs; Dow City Bank, Abner Graves, cashier; E. W. Pierce, hardware; Mrs. Morris Chambers, millinery; J. J. Anthony, lumber; T. J. Rasp, merchandise; W. C. Hillas, merchandise; Whaley and Bell, merchandise; Hardy and Robinson, merchandise; W. A. McHenry Bank, M. H. Hendricks, grocer; E. W. Blackburn, hardware, Astor; Hunt Bros., merchandise, Deloit; C. Stoecks, millinery; H. S. Gulick, implements; C. Sievers, harness, R. Knaul, drugs, Jac. Stoudenmeyer, boot and shoe maker; Hugh Menagh, lumber; City Dray Co., John Driscoll, A. C. Weeks, Nora Cavett, Geo. L. Harris, auctioneer; West Side: Ed. Detwiller, auctioneer; Thos. Saul, dray line, Denison.

One of the first things urged upon the city of Denison by Mr. J. Fred Meyers, upon his coming here in 1874, was the establishment of a free public library. Following this agitation a library association was formed which gave a series of amateur theatricals and other entertainments by which a small library fund was created. This was established in connection with the school library and was the nucleus of the Carnegie library of to-day. At a meeting of the electors of Denison township held March 10, 1875, a motion was made and carried "that we raise a sum of \$500 on the taxable property of Denison and Hanover townships for the purpose of procuring a district library." A committee consisting of J. Fred Meyers, L. Cornwell, and George Scott was appointed to select books. March 1876, the above committee reported to the electors that the amount of taxes collected was \$390.00. The cost of books selected, 80 volumes, was \$135.00, and a book case costing \$15.00 had also been contracted for. This library was kept at the Carr book store for a number of years and later, when the independent district was created, there was some difficulty in settling with Hanover township for its share of the library. The first great impetus to the library movement, however, came when Mrs. Mary A. McKim, widow of Martin McKim, bequeathed considerable amount for the erection of what has since been known as the McKim hall. Mrs. McKim made a will in 1884 bequeathing as follows: to relatives, \$12,000; to the Denison Baptist church, \$4,000; Denison Baptist Sunday School, \$1,000; Mission schools in Alaska, \$1,000; Missionary work in Iowa, \$1,000; Sunday School work in Iowa \$1,000; education of students for ministry, \$1,000; poor of Denison for fuel, \$1,000; McKim reading room in Denison \$10,000 or the balance of the estate. It was claimed that a later will was made devising some \$30,000 to E. M. Owens. These wills were hotly contested and with the result that a compromise was affected giving \$8,000 for the erection of the hall. The great interest in this trial, the subsequent burning of the Baptist church, which many laid to incendiarism and later the building of the McKim hall, to be maintained under the direction of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, are all incidents of Denison history which will be long remembered. The sum donated was thought insufficient for the erection of the building and it was allowed to



CRAWFORD COUNTY JAIL, DENISON



LAUB BLOCK, DENISON



DENISON NORMAL AND BUSINESS COLLEGE

remain on interest until 1887, when the building committee contracted for a building 30 x 70 in dimensions with stone basement and two stories, with brick walls and iron roof. The corner stone was laid August 12, 1887, and on January 20, 1888, we find the following account of its dedication:

The McKim hall which will stand for many years as a just source of pride to our town, was dedicated on Monday evening last. The hall in the second floor was crowded to overflowing with people and the ceremonies were carried out quite successfully. Mrs. J. Ellen Foster of Clinton delivered the address. Before this part of the program, however, Mrs. W. A. McHenry read the following statement in reference to the hall and how it came to be built:

"The building of this Memorial Hall which we dedicate tonight, was made possible by a bequest of Mrs. Mary McKim, a member of the Denison W. C. T. U. Mrs. McKim became a member of this Union May 23, 1878, and kept her membership to the time of her death.

"In Dec. 1884, she presented to this society \$1,000 for the purpose of commencing the work of establishing a free library and Reading Room to be controlled by the W. C. T. U. of Denison. With this money was purchased the house and lot adjoining this building on the east, and which we have occupied since as our Temperance headquarters, holding regular Thursday afternoon meetings therein. After her death, Feb. 21, 1885, the will which made the Denison W. C. T. U. the legatee of the residue of her property, after other bequests were paid, amounting to between \$15,000 and \$16,000 was not allowed probate, but a settlement was made which brought to our treasury \$8,500 out of which \$350 were taken for necessary expenses, leaving \$8,150 in notes and mortgages. On Oct. 28, 1885, Mr. E. S. Plimpton was appointed the financial agent, under bonds of \$15,000 to hold and care for these funds, all of which have been collected and turned over to the treasurer of the Union, except \$350 in process of collection. On Oct. 29, 1885, at the regular meeting of the Union the following named gentlemen were appointed and invited to serve as an advisory board, with the trustees of the W. C. T. U.: J. Fred Meyers, E. S. Plimpton, Morris McHenry, Sam'l Luney, Dr. Wright, J. L. McClellan, and John Richardson. The trustees of the W. C. T. U. are Mrs. E. S. Plimpton, Mrs. H. C. Laub and Mrs. J. L. McClellan. Mr. Morris McHenry having removed from the city, Mr. R. Hefflefinger was appointed to his place on the advisory board which position he accepted Mar. 3, 1887. On Mar. 10, Mrs. Meyers and Mrs. McHenry were added to this committee from the Union.

"After some consultation and discussion as to the most feasible and proper manner of carrying out the expressed wishes of Mrs. McKim in regard to this building it was thought best to defer the erection of it for at least one year, but the treasurer was instructed to conclude the purchase of the lot on the corner of Broadway and Sweet street. From the advisory board a building committee was appointed, Messrs. J. Fred Meyers, chairman, E. S. Plimpton and J. L. McClellan, Mrs. J. Fred Meyers and Mrs. W. A. McHenry to whom was instructed the carrying out the plans accepted and adopted by the advisory board, namely the plans and specifications of L. J. Carter of Denison, architect and builder, who generously donated his work as an expression of hearty sympathy and co-operation with the undertaking. On June 21, 1887, the contract for building

this memorial hall was let to Mr. H. C. Laub of Denison, for the sum of \$6,453, to be completed by the 15th of December, 1887. A statement of expenditures shows as follows:

Price of contract	\$6,453.00
Price of lot	1,000.00
Price of furnaces	400.00
Gas machine and fixtures	375.00
Extra wall, steps and side walk	165.00
Excavating cellar and putting in water	165.00
Extra expenses of drayage, freight and superintending work	100.00

"All the above expenses are provided for, if not already paid. The accrued interest makes up the apparent difference between amounts received and disbursed."

The school and city library was placed in this building and it grew from year to year to be a library of fair proportions. The library prospered in this way until the year 1901, when through the efforts of Supt. H. H. Savage, a donation of \$1500.00 was secured from Mr. Geo. W. Schee of Primghar, Iowa, for the purchase of library books for the use of Denison and of the schools of the county, providing the city of Denison would donate \$2,500.00 additional. This gave fresh impetus to the library movement, the matter was taken up at once by our most enterprising citizens and the additional sum was soon raised. The donors to this fund were as follows; First National Bank, \$500.00; Crawford County State Bank, \$500.00; Denison City teachers, \$100.00; P. E. C. Lally, \$100.00; J. B. Romans, \$100.00; R. A. Romans, \$100.00; R. Lehfeldt, \$100.00; Chas. Tabor, \$150.00; J. P. Miller and Co., \$150.00; L. M. Shaw, \$100.00; Carl F. Kuehnle, \$100.00; W. H. Woolston, \$50.00; C. Sievers and Sons, \$50.00; Stewart Lumber Co., \$50.00; C. J. Salomon, \$50.00; J. L. Warbasse, \$50.00; Wm. Iseminger, \$50.00; C. Sprecher, \$50.00; Pfarr Gebert and Wieland, \$50.00. The Friday Club also donated \$200.

Having secured this handsome sum for the purchase of books the next problem was to secure a suitable place in which to house them. The matter was taken up with the noted builder of libraries, Andrew Carnegie, and an appropriation of \$10,000 was secured from him with the provision that Denison should provide for an annual tax of one tenth of that amount for maintenance. The necessary steps were taken by the city council, the question was submitted to the voters and carried by a large majority. The handsome lot valued at \$2,500, on the corner of Chestnut and Sweet streets was donated by Mr. J. P. Miller and the work of erection was at once commenced. Later it was found that the sum donated by Mr. Carnegie would not be sufficient and this generous patron of learning was induced to add the sum of \$2500.00 to his former beneficence. In this way, Denison secured not only a substantial building, which will be a credit to the city for many years, but a fine library of carefully selected books now numbering about 6,000 volumes. The library building was dedicated Aug. 10, 1904, Hon. M. J. Wade and Hon. Johnson Brigham delivering the dedicatory addresses. Miss Grace Meyers was elected librarian, a position which she has held since the opening of the library. This building has become the center of

Denison's social and literary life. The basement affords a club room which is utilized by the various Women's literary clubs of the city and for social events connected with our schools and educational institutions. The reading room contains newspapers and periodicals in profusion and is very largely patronized by the young and old of the city. In affording a place where the young people can pass their evenings in the midst of good books and good surroundings, it has done very much for the morals as well as for the culture of our city. The taxes levied from year to year are sufficient, not only for the current expense of maintenance, but for the addition of a number of books from time to time and there is no reason why this institution should not continue to be one of the greatest blessings of our city.

1885.

Retracing our steps from the library of today to the Denison of 1885, we find that it was a year of much activity. All of the old time settlers will remember when the side walk on the east side of Main street stood high above the roadway with a long flight of steps leading to Broadway. This sidewalk has been lowered, the store fronts rearranged and in 1885 Mr. H. C. Laub built a brick block facing on Broadway. This block was 90 feet in length and at present contains the stores of J. Barborka, A. E. Lyman, and Menagh and Co.

Mr. C. Green, assessor, took the census of Denison in this year and found the population to be 1633. A considerable increase over 1880 when the population was 1444. The population of Crawford county in 1885 was as follows: Townships, Iowa 945; Nishnabotny 577; Washington 558; Union 527; Boyer 441; Hayes 792; East Boyer 621; Denison 664; Paradise 400; Willow 507; West Side 639; Milford 914; Goodrich 866; Hanover 648; Charter Oak 511; Jackson 688; Stockholm 662; Otter Creek 901; Morgan 605; Soldier 560. Towns, Denison 1633; Vail 642; West Side 465; Dow City 424.

In June 1885, the county was visited by the most disastrous flood in its history. Both the east and west Boyers overflowed their banks. The waters rose so suddenly that a number of farmers were cut off from their home. In the afternoon an attempt was made to cross the West Boyer near the fair ground bridge and this attempt ended in a sad tragedy. We condense the following account from an extra issue of the Review dated June 8, 1885:

About three o'clock four teams, of which Mr. Blackman's was the last, guided by a man on horseback, undertook the perilous venture of crossing to the Fair Ground bridge. The river had risen steadily so that the water ran across the road nearly breast high, and as a small bridge has to be crossed before the Boyer bridge itself is reached, the attempt proved fatal.

As Mr. Blackman's wagon passed out of town, a lad fourteen years old—the son of Fred Nagle, who lives on a farm but has no team of his own, begged a ride and sat in the wagon. The first three wagons in the procession reached the small bridge in safety, but Mr. Blackman's wagon failed to strike the small bridge, and in a moment, the team, wagon and the four persons, were submerged, the team lodging on a wire fence which for a time held the wagon box also. Two persons came to their relief. One was a son of Mr. Angel, a young

man about nineteen, on horseback, who was behind the wagon, and the other a German farmer by the name of Henry Glau, who was on the bridge expecting to come to town. We are unable to learn the particulars of young Angel's death. He fell from the horse and suddenly disappeared, as he endeavored to rescue the endangered party. Mr. Glau took off his clothes on the bridge and made for the wagon in which the two boys were, and took the Nagel boy on his shoulders or in his arms to bring him ashore, but he soon disappeared in the muddy stream, and the bodies of these three have not been found.

In the meantime Mr. and Mrs. Blackman floated off, Mr. Blackman striking a box elder tree to which he clung and on which he finally climbed. His son, who was thrown out of the wagon box which subsequently drifted down the stream also lodged in the same tree, and so did a man who endeavored to rescue them but who did not venture back, for though this was not the main channel the current was strong, and the water over a man's head.

The first and nearest persons who saw the disaster was Judge J. P. Conner and family, who had taken a ride for observation. Mrs. Blackman floated off and was carried by the tree where her husband lodged and floated down the stream, carried back into the current for more than half a mile. Judge Conner tried to reach her before she was carried off into the main channel, jumping into the water with his clothes on, but on suddenly reaching a ditch he fell clear out of sight and before he recovered the woman had passed. He then threw a number of boards towards her, one of which reached her and by which she buoyed herself up, until she floated over the current clinging to a branch on the other side of the channel.

Although the place of disaster was a long half mile from town, it is clearly observable from the main crossing to the Review office. Some by-standers saw that something was wrong, and when the cries of the floating woman were distinctly heard, a general rush was made.

Mr. Frank Young and Hans Thiesen and several Germans whose names we could not learn, but who were close by, had in the meantime made several efforts to reach the woman as she floated but could not come up with her.

Among the first persons who reached the bank opposite to where the woman had drifted was Jas. Fitzgerald, son of Dr. Fitzgerald, a printer, employed in the Review office, who stripped at once to swim across. Dr. Wright was the next man who plunged in and these two were the first to enter the water. They were speedily followed by Messrs. Penny and Richard Williams, all expert swimmers, who first waded to the east bank, and thence swam over the channel where the water ran with great velocity. The courage and devotion of these four gentlemen is deserving of the highest praise, as an illustration that our generation is as capable of furnishing courageous, fearless and self sacrificing men, as any of the past and every one of them is entitled to a medal of distinction, for saving human life at the immediate risk of their own.

Dr. Wright and Jas. Fitzgerald had taken a rope with them, and when they found the woman she was almost benumbed, clinging to a limb with barely her head above water. Having swallowed much of the filthy stuff she vomited copiously, as soon as she was tied up with the rope, and held up by the swimmers.

The swimmers reached Mrs. Blackman just as she was about to give up. She said good bye to every one by name, the last to the baby which was hardest of all, as she felt she must go under, when Dr. Wright and Mr. Fred Penny reached her.

The case of Henry Glau, the German farmer who lost his life in an effort to save the life of others, deserves particular mention. He had been a ship builder in the old country and worked in Denison as a carpenter. He subsequently moved to Manning where he had the misfortune to lose his property by fire. He then bought a piece of land, and he again had the misfortune to lose his hogs. His wife, with her two little children were in Manning, and on her arrival on the Eastern train she expected he would meet her, and up to Sunday morning she was still in ignorance of the fate of her husband.

Search for the bodies of the deceased persons was made immediately until nightfall. On Sunday at 9 o'clock A. M. the fire bell gave the signal for the assembling of the fire company, and searching parties were organized. The river had not yet entered the channel and the search proved fruitless. Regular efforts at dredging will be made from day to day until the bodies are recovered.

Of young Mr. Angel a farmer's son we know little. He was a nephew of Mr. Henry Vandevere, and by all accounts a bright and generous youth. About the time when Denison was excited with the news of the great disaster a messenger came from Deloit stating that a lady was drowned in that vicinity.

Mr. Isaac Bronson accompanied by Miss Georgie Springer and Miss Sarah Crane, a sister to his brother's wife, started from his farm for Denison, but as he intended to leave some grist at the mill, he drove towards the McKim mill. The water ran over the road and he was carried over the dam below the road, and all were struggling in the water, Mr. Bronson tried to save both ladies but Miss Crane drifted away, when her clothes caught in a wire fence and the pressure of the water kept her under. Mr. Bronson caught on a tree and caught Miss Springer as she floated by. Mr. Cary Phillips procured help at Deloit, while Cyrus Dobson was the first to swim out. He tied Miss Springer to a tree until a raft could be made. Had the whereabouts of Miss Crane been known at once she would undoubtedly have been saved."

That Denison was not the only town that showed prosperity is evidenced by the fact that on June 21, 1885, the largest church structure in the county was dedicated at Vail. This church was built by the Catholic society and was named St. Anne's church. The building cost \$15,000. The Catholic society at Vail originated in 1876, when Rev. T. Moore of Dunlap visited that city once a month and said mass in the houses of some of the few Catholic families. Rev. M. Lynch was the first priest to say mass on Sunday at Vail. At this time the Catholics were more numerous and held their services in the hall. In 1879, a frame church was erected, but this building was pronounced unsafe, and services were held in it but once, on Christmas day, 1879. Rev. M. C. Lenihan had charge of the congregation both at Denison and Vail after 1880, but the Vail Catholics were burdened with a debt for a church which both the courts and its own dangerous condition, forbade them to occupy. On Sept. 29, 1881, a cyclone completely demolished the church. It was insured against fire and lightning, but not against wind storms and the loss had to be sustained by the

society. The corner stone of St. Anne's church was laid on the anniversary of the destruction of the old building. The church is still we believe, the largest church edifice in the county and stands as a monument to the zeal and liberality of the Catholic citizens of to-day and of the generosity of the people as a whole, for no lines of faith or creed were drawn in the contributions for its erection.

The historian would be unfaithful to his task did he not refer to the troubles which arose in this county out of the passage of the Prohibitory laws. Politically, the county was revolutionized, but what was still of more consequence, the county was torn by bitter strife. Whereas the Prohibitory amendment was defeated in this county by but a small majority, the majority sentiment was against the enforcement of statutory Prohibition. The enactment of the Prohibitory law gave to this county therefore, a large number of saloons which were illegal, but which were upheld by the majority of the people who felt that their personal liberties had been denied. At one time there were twelve of these illegal drinking places in Denison. There were persecutions, as well as prosecutions, under the Prohibitory law and it was used in some instances as an instrument of personal or political feuds. This period of strife arrayed many honest men against each other and to some extent retarded the growth of the county, by making it impossible for all the citizens to work together as they should. This condition lasted until the enactment of the present law which was generally accepted and under which the constant irritation gradually ceased.

Denison was becoming more and more important as a market town. Its territory was wide extending to the north and west even beyond the confines of the county. Between December 1st and December 17th, 1885, we have record that 3735 hogs were weighed at the city scales. The first event of the year 1886 was the burning of the Baptist church. This fire occurred on the evening of Feb. 14th and was discovered soon after the Sunday evening congregation had been dismissed. The pastor, Rev. W. H. H. Avery, who left the church among the last had not been gone over fifteen minutes when the alarm was given and when he opened the back door down to the basement he found it a sheet of flames. The church and the pastor's library were a total loss, but by the efforts of the fire department the parsonage adjoining was saved. This was the largest conflagration Denison had known up to this time. Owing to the unexplainable origin of the fire and to the fact that litigation had engendered some bitterness, it was generally believed that this fire was the result of incendiarism, although efforts to detect the supposed criminal were without avail. The building was the one first erected on Main street in 1866 and moved in 1875 to the lots still owned by the Baptist society. The building was valued at \$6,000.

1886.

An effort was made in 1886 to secure the location of the Soldiers' Home at Denison. One hundred and sixty acres of land were offered by the city and a committee, consisting of W. A. McHenry, Geo. L. Wright, Chas. Bullock, and J. Fred Meyers, was appointed to go to Des Moines to represent Denison's interests. This committee did as instructed and later our city was visited by a location committee sent by the State Legislature. Large plans were made for the

reception of this committee and a banquet was prepared for them, but owing to unfortunate weather conditions the committee was unable to see the town to any advantage and owing to their pre-arranged schedule they were unable to partake of Denison's hospitality. The Soldiers' Home was located at Marshalltown, much to the regret of Denison people.

In March, 1886, we note the following fire officers elected, and we give their names as they will be of interest to the veteran volunteers of the fire department. The Amphion Hook and Ladder Co. elected J. S. Nesbit, President; Geo. H. Lyon, Vice-president; Frank Faul, Secretary; C. M. Staley, Treasurer; A. J. Bond, Foreman; The Pioneer Engine Co. elected officers as follows: Foreman, Grant Gilbreath; Assistant, O. W. Wheeler; Treasurer, E. A. Stone; Secretary, Fred Sherrard; Trustees, Chaney Baker, A. B. Gable, and M. J. Cochran.

The city officers elected in March 1886, were E. K. J. Burch, mayor; W. A. McHenry and L. Cornwell, councilmen; C. M. Staley, recorder; M. H. Hendricks, treasurer; and C. Green, assessor. Mr. L. K. Bensley was the candidate against Mr. Burch.

Another evidence of Denison's activity was the formation of a base ball team and we give the list of the old time players. They were, John Griffin, Dick Williams, Walter Wells, M. McNertney, D. D. Dailey, Fred Abiescher, Ed. F. Owens, Thos. Kelly, and Chas. Kemming. Of these, but one, T. J. Kelly still makes appearance upon the diamond.

In 1886 Denison was greatly honored by having one of its citizens, Mr. W. A. McHenry, elected as Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic for the Department of Iowa. An energetic campaign had been made in Mr. McHenry's behalf and the old soldiers and citizens generally were greatly elated over his victory. Mr. McHenry appointed Col. Geo. L. Wright, as his Adjutant and Capt. M. Smith, Quarter Master. Upon the return of the delegation from Sioux City they were met by an enthusiastic crowd and a reception was tendered the victors at the McHenry hall. This was the first of a long series of honors awarded Denison people by the patriotic orders of the State and Nation and Denison became for some years the center of these great organizations.

June 4 witnessed the first commencement of the Denison high school. Before that time there had been no regular course of study and no graduations. The first class was one of five members and the first commencement was a notable event in the history of the schools and of the town.

At this time Denison was rent with dissensions over the postoffice succession, over politics, and over the enforcement of the Prohibitory law. These culminated in a personal altercation which led the people to realize the length to which they had gone and which after all helped materially to clear the atmosphere and to bring the people to a more harmonious basis.

On August 1 the Northwestern depot was destroyed by fire, agent J. H. Gable and his family who lived above the depot having a narrow escape.

The new town of Astor was booming at this time and a new paper, the Astor Tribune was announced with D. W. Baer as editor. This boom was short lived however, as the projected branch of the Milwaukee railroad was surveyed to leave the main line a mile and a half east of Astor. The sale of lots at the new town of Manilla was held in November and \$13,000 worth of

lots were sold. The bulk of the population of Astor moved to the new town site.

On November 5th Denison was first connected by telephones with Carroll and intermediate towns and also with Ida Grove, Odebolt and Sac City. Connection was soon promised with Boone and Des Moines. The central office was at the Jagger House and the toll rates were 20 cents to towns within the county and 25 cents to outside towns. The line was pushed westward and Dow City was soon connected.

In December the Denison Review gives us the following picture of the city's activities and some interesting and general items.

The Review said:

"It has always been the claim of Denison that there was no town on the Northwestern road in Iowa which sent to market so many hogs as it. We certainly doubt whether there is any town that can make the following showing for any given five days. The sleighing since last Saturday has been comparatively good and the farmers surrounding Denison took the opportunity to bring in their hogs to market. On Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, the streets surrounding the stockyards were clogged with teams, and the buyers were kept busy to their utmost. The prices ranged from \$3.40 to \$3.65, and estimating a car load worth \$750, there were over twenty one thousand dollars paid out for hogs in the last five days through our Denison banks. On Tuesday alone 450 hogs were taken in."

"At a last meeting of the council it was ordered that a tower be built on the engine house at the expense of the town. The weighmaster reported that he received in October \$44.10 and in November \$46.55.

"The postmaster at Astor has resigned, and by spring there will scarcely remain a vestige of that once thriving village—nearly all will have moved to Manilla.

"The new fire bell has come. It weigh 22,090 pounds and will soon be up ready for use. The town as yet has not furnished the bell tower. The bell looks as large as the one owned by the Methodist church. It is a McShane bell from the best factory in the United States. Through the kindness of agent Gable, the freight charges were reduced one half."

1887.

The year 1887 was another year of ups and downs. The Agricultural Society had been leading a precarious existence and Mr. E. Gulick, the secretary, called a meeting for February 1st to consider the future of the society. It was found that the indebtedness was \$720, and as no one cared to shoulder the burden any longer it was decided to sell the property to the highest bidder. Nothing was said about re-organization, but it was understood that a stock company would be formed. The Fair Grounds were sold in March for \$1,025, this barely covering the amount of indebtedness. The grounds were bought by Mr. A. Hartney who purchased it for an association of citizens, twenty-five of whom subscribed \$100 each and organized what was known as an "Agricultural



LUNEY MILLS, DENISON



OLD GERMAN HOTEL, DENISON

and Improvement of Stock Society." Officers were elected as follows: A. Hartney, president; C. F. Cassady, secretary; S. B. Greek, vice-president; W. A. McHenry, treasurer; and M. Goldheim, R. Shaw Van, Thos. Pierson, A. D. Wilson, R. Knaul, and J. Fred Meyers, directors. This new association purchased additional grounds, erected buildings, and conducted a fair for several years but met with continued adversity until finally the project was abandoned and in 1899 the grounds were sold, the debts of the association paid, and the society gave up the struggle for existence. As we have mentioned elsewhere the society has been revived and has for several years held successful exhibits at Arion. The lack of support and final abandonment of this enterprise was another serious mistake for Denison.

In 1887 the three fire companies of Denison effected a general organization with Grant Gilbreath, president; B. Brodersen, secretary; and A. J. Bond treasurer. At this meeting considerable dissatisfaction was expressed with the new fire bell, but it was finally accepted. The following is a list of the members of the Denison fire department in good standing April 1, 1887: M. H. Hendricks was chief and R. Shaw Van, assistant. The members were, Pioneer engine company, Fred Berg, Grant Gilbreath, Peter Krauth, A. Moeller, A. C. Wrigley, A. F. Trone, Frank Wright, Bernard Vollerston, A. B. Gable, F. O. Ivens, Chas. Kemming, F. W. Sherrard, E. A. Stone, Henry Seeman, Will Shillington, F. W. Crumblich; Amphion Hook and Ladder—R. Shaw Van, N. A. Miller, H. Norman, A. J. Bond, Henry Nobles, Joseph Carter, A. C. Weeks, H. J. Cook, D. H. McWilliams, J. T. Haugh, W. J. McAhren, W. H. Jagger, A. H. McAhren, Chas. Morris, T. J. Bouldron, Isaac Hird, Wm. Coan, Frank Faul, L. J. Carter, Thos. Clark, Geo. Lyons, C. M. Staley, T. W. Morris, Thos. Lister, W. T. Wright, G. W. Bond, John Baker, Geo. Knight, Eugene Gulick. Rescue Hose Company—B. Brodersen, J. Flack, G. T. Stegeman, F. Heppner, George Chamberlain, Hans Christiansen, Sigfried Christiansen, Henry Wedemeyer, Wm. Von Dohlen, A. Haupt, A. Aebischer, J. M. Rowland, J. Lehfeldt, F. Clough, Nels Ewald, H. C. Schluter, Hans Thiesen, Chris Rickerts, Andrew Bowling.

In April 1887, the base ball club was organized with L. P. Mooney, manager and Thos. Griffin, captain. The nine was resplendant in new suits, with brown pants, blue stockings, white shirts and white hats. This proved to be one of the most interesting years of Denison's base ball history.

In April 1887, Mrs. W. A. McHenry was elected president of the Woman's Relief Corps of Iowa and Mrs. Georgia McClellan, department treasurer. Mrs. McHenry appointed Mrs. S. W. Plimpton, secretary and Denison became the headquarters of the corps for the year.

This was the year of the building of the Sioux City branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railway. The sale of lots at Charter Oak was held on April 27, the sales amounting to more than \$4,000.

The work of re-building the Baptist church was pushed rapidly and by March, 1887, the steeple was completed, this part of the building being donated by Messrs. Raine, Bouldron and Hird, the contractors. It was in the same month that the Methodist congregation decided to build a new church. Their plans called for the erection of a \$6,000 edifice and six of the members sub-

scribed \$4,000 of the amount. The plans were made more ambitious, however, and it was a \$10,000 church which was dedicated December 11, 1887, with an address by Chaplain C. C. McCabe. The building committee was composed of H. C. Laub, L. M. Shaw, J. B. Romans, and R. Hefflefinger. Rev. A. Wellborn was the pastor in charge and a large amount of credit belongs to him. At the dedication service it was announced that there was an indebtedness of \$4,200, and this amount was raised within thirty minutes.

In 1886 the Germania Verein had taken steps to establish a school where German and English might be taught. Prof. J. E. Harthun of Omaha was employed and by December, 1887, the school had 52 pupils and on account of lack of room no more could be entered. This school, conducted by Prof. Harthun, was a very helpful influence but it was abandoned when Mr. Harthun became editor of the Zeitung.

The chief staple of our market then as now, was the great American hog. Denison had a reputation for high prices and farmers were attracted for twenty miles around. From November 21, to December 17th, 1887, Denison dealers bought 3448 head of hogs, averaging 325 pounds or a total of one million, one hundred twenty thousand, six hundred pounds. The average price was 5 cents a pound and more than \$56,000 was paid for hogs at the Denison market during this brief length of time. The Denison paper goes on to figure that these shipments filled 57 stock cars and represented 861 wagon loads. No wonder the town was prosperous.

1888.

The year 1888 opened sadly with the death of that beloved pioneer Andrew D. Molony, a sketch of whose life has been given elsewhere. On January 20th, the McKim hall was dedicated and on January 27th, occurred a business change which while not of great importance in one sense, was notable in another, for the old Carr book store which had become a veritable land mark was sold to Mr. Henry Schluter.

This was a hard winter and in January there came a blizzard in which Mrs. Jurgen Jepsen, of Goodrich township lost her life. Together with his wife and three children, Mr. Jepsen had been visiting at the home of his brother John. Returning home they lost their way. Mr. Jepsen overturned the sled box to afford a protection for his family and went in search of help. He wandered all night through the blizzard and was found badly frozen the next morning. The mother after wrapping up her little ones had started in search of her husband and fell but 50 feet from the sleigh. When found in the morning she was dead. The three children and Mr. Jepsen were saved but were badly frozen.

On Sunday February 12th, the new Baptist church was dedicated, Rev. A. W. Lamar, of Omaha, preaching the dedicatory service. At the time of dedication the new church was without debt, save for \$600 and this amount was quickly subscribed.

On February 24th the town was delighted with the announcement that J. P. Miller and Company would erect a brick building on Main street. This building

was erected as planned and is now a part of the store occupied by Pfarr, Gebert and Hunt.

The branch line of the Milwaukee had been constructed but no arrangements had been made for the convenience of passengers wishing to transfer at the crossing with the Northwestern. This matter was taken up by Denison people, with the railroad comission, and the railroad authorities finally complied with the demands of the people and established a station which they called Arion.

The spring of 1888 saw the commencement of an industry which has advertised Denison more widely than any other institution it has had. It was in May of this year that Mr. W. A. McHenry purchased four thoroughbred Aberdeen Angus cows, adding them to his herd and thus establishing what has become the greatest herd of the breed in America. This herd has taken first and sweep-stake prizes in all the great live stock shows in this country. It has brought many visitors to Denison, and many thousands of dollars of outside capital, beside the employment which it has given continuously to a number of men. It is perhaps an odd juxtaposition, but Denison is probably the best known throughout the length and breadth of the land on account of two things,—that it is the old home of Governor Leslie M. Shaw and the home of the McHenry herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle.

In the spring of 1888, one of the first of the Denison Improvement Associations was formed with J. B. Romans as president. Base ball was all the rage and the line up was Griffin, Kelly, Simmons, S. Seeman, McHenry, Muir, L. Seeman, Broadus, and Kemming. Lute Seeman was the pitcher and he was a whirlwind with Tommy Griffin behind the bat.

In June the town was greatly excited over the work of two confidence men who succeeded in getting \$1500 from Mr. S. Eastman. Quick work on the part of Sheriff Mooney resulted in the capture of the swindlers at Des Moines. They were brought to Denison and the money was returned to their victim.

The 4th of July celebration was marked by a serious accident in which four young boys, Frank Slater, Eddie Robinault, Chas. Blakely, and Arthur and Bert Miller were badly burned. The great feature of the program was a Sham Battle between the members of the Militarische Bruederschaft and the members of the G. A. R. The old cannon was brought into requisition in charge of Capt. Partridge. After the Sham Battle, some boys were allowed to carry the remaining powder uptown. They carried this in an open basket and it contained about sixteen pounds of powder. After going some distance a lighted fire-cracker fell into the basket. Frank Slater tried to take it out, but too late, an explosion followed and the five boys were badly burned. We are glad to report * that all of them recovered.

In the fall of this year, we note the founding of the Catholic Parochial School at the instigation of Rev. Father M. J. Farrelly. This was the year when Hon. J. P. Dolliver was first nominated for congress and his joint debates with his opponent, Capt. Yeoman, was an enlivening feature of the campaign. It was in October of this year that the old overland mail route between Denison and Charter Oak was finally abandoned.

Denison had now grown to such proportions that the need of an electric light plant was felt and this project was first discussed in the newspapers of December, 1888. The close of the year saw the announcement that the Lutheran congregation would erect a new church at a probable cost of \$3,500.

1890.

January 1, 1890, witnessed the establishment of the Bank of Denison, the third of our city banks. This month also saw the commencement of the Creamery Movement. A company was formed for this purpose, the first stockholders being J. B. Romans and Company, E. S. Plimpton, Henry Jobe, Henry A. Cook, W. H. Woolston, J. P. Miller and Company, C. Green, L. Cornwell, Sriver and Company, Shaw and Kuehnle, Chas. K. Meyers, W. H. Laub, J. G. Wygant, E. Gulick, D. L. Boynton, C. Sievers, C. P. and S. S. Stocking and Thos. E. Pier-son. The building was erected by April 30th, and during the fore part of May the machinery arrived and was installed with S. E. Messer as butter maker. This institution was not as successful as its founders had hoped. It passed through a series of managements and mis-managements until the plant was finally sold to the Fairmont Creamery Company, since which time it has done a great volume of business and is now the largest single industry in Denison. Thus while the original stockholders lost the most of that which they invested, the town as a whole has been vastly benefited and no one can say but that the investment, viewed from this standpoint, was a good one.

In March the city voted favorably upon the proposition to bond the city for \$13,500 for the erection of a new school building. This building is what is now known as the North Brick School. It was erected at a cost of \$11,332 by Wm. Raine, contractor; L. J. Carter was the architect. This building was dedicated on New Year's day 1891.

In February there was a destructive fire at Vail, the buildings occupied by A. L. Strong, Tempest Bros., J. S. Nesbit and J. E. Edgar, being destroyed. The fire was at night and for some reason the fire engine would not work. The loss above the insurance was about \$12,000.

As a good index of the business of the various towns of the county, we include some statistics relative to the postal service. Every postmaster was required to keep accurate account of the mail originating at his office for the week ending May 12th. Denison sent out 592 pounds during the week, the postage on which amounted to \$68.49. The business of the various offices in the county for the three months ending December 31, 1889, is given as follows:

	Stamps Canceled	Box Rent
* Vail	\$ 322.60	\$ 65.85
Charter Oak	274.24	51.60
Manilla	272.94	37.80
Dow City	195.45	15.35
West Side	158.23	34.70
<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	\$1123.46	\$205.30
Denison	\$1184.59	\$160.40

Minor Offices.

Aspinwall	\$ 46.05	\$ 13.75
Kenwood	37.89	....
Deloit	35.17	7.50
Kiron	34.56	4.00
Astor	26.57	....
Bell	22.93	1.95
Morgan	14.86	....
Lydia	5.92	....
<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	\$223.95	\$ 27.20

In July, 1890, the largest Soldiers' Reunion the town has ever known was successfully held. The veterans gathered from a number of the surrounding counties and the entire city united to do them honor. The reunion lasted several days and was one of the best ever held in western Iowa.

Vail again attracted the attention of the county when Anthony Monaghan and his wife were killed when the fast train crashed into their wagon.

In August came the glad tidings that Mrs. W. A. McHenry had been elected National President of the Women's Relief Corps, the largest women's society in the world. Mrs. McHenry appointed Mrs. S. W. Plimpton as National Secretary.

The growth of Charter Oak was evidenced by the establishment of the First National Bank by H. N. Moore and Company.

Among the accidents of the year was the death of Benjamin Wilder of Dow City, who was killed by a fall from a scaffolding, and a fire at Vail in which a livery stable containing 15 horses was destroyed.

The year 1890 closed with disquieting rumors as to the solvency of the firm of Dow and Graves, a firm which had been the predominating influence in the western part of the county.

Among the business men of Denison at the close of 1890 were the following: The three banks, C. Stoecks, DeWolf and Flack, J. P. Miller and Company, M. J. Cosman, general merchants; M. Goldheim and Company, and A. H. McAhren, clothiers; McAhren and Cassady, J. F. Burk and R. Knaul, drugs; A. J. Bond, and O. M. Campbell, jewelry; A. F. Marshall and Company, books; W. H. Woolston, C. J. Salomon, furniture; J. G. Wygant, hardware; J. B. Romans and Bros., B. D. Stevers, implements; F. O. Ivens, tinner; A. F. Trone, photographer; O. J. Piper and Franz Heppner, shoes; Mrs. E. L. Crippen, millinery; A. Hartney, hotel; C. Seiler, E. R. Allan, restaurants; Abiescher Bros. and Emmons and McCord, meats; Stone and Temple, Sriver and Company, The Green Bay Lumber Company, lumber; Shaw and Kuehnle, T. J. Garrison, D. L. Boynton, M. O'Connor, Tabor and Tabor and P. E. C. Lally, lawyers; T. W. Garber, dentist; Nicholson Bros., produce; Strohmeier Harness Company; C. Sievers, harness; E. Gulick, real estate; Naeve and Walker, abstracts; S. W. Broadus, barber; W. H. Laub, F. J. Young, livery; C. Christiansen, Thos. Bateman, blacksmiths; M. J. Cochran, wagon maker; L. J. Carter, planing mill; J. H. and F. M. Clough, J. A. Van Winkle, Rain and Bouldron, carpenters; C. H. Trask, Geo. Servoss, masons;

George E. Taylor, Jacob Krauth, and H. H. Martins, painters; Luney Bros. and Company, R. Hefflefinger and Company, flouring mills; A. D. Wilkinson, Wm. Iseminger, C. H. Bolles, physicians; J. I. Gibson, veterinarian; John James, house mover; H. J. Cook, drayman; S. W. Seymour, auctioneer; M. A. Harding, blacksmith; H. Kruckenberg, shoes; Murphey and Wright, proprietors depot store; R. R. Montgomery, justice of the peace. This is not a complete business directory, but it gives a very general idea of the business men of the town twenty-one years ago.

1891.

In April, 1891, a new postoffice called Hohenzollern was established in Morgan township, and in June the town site of Arion was sold at auction, the sales amounting to \$3,500.

The county was visited by a severe wind and rain storm. At Vail on the evening of July 1st the home of Patrick Mulheron, three miles northeast of Vail, was destroyed by a cyclone and Mrs. Mulheron was severely injured. The wind, rain and hail extended over several counties but the cyclone, which was not more than a few rods wide, struck the ground at about the Sac county line, practically north of Vail. On the farm of Mr. Clement were seen the usual wonderful results. Heavy wagon tires were taken smoothly from the wheels and then twisted. Pieces of ice as large as a man's head were found and these easily pierced through roofs of shingles and inch boards. Cows were killed by one blow of a piece of this ice. Crops were destroyed and there was considerable property loss. At Charter Oak there were no mails for a week on account of the floods and the Charter Oak Times was printed on wrapping paper.

In the politics of the county the Farmers Alliance Movement had taken strong hold and there were many meetings and conventions throughout the rural precincts.

In July a sensation was furnished by the escape of George Morgan and Joseph Meyer, two men who were awaiting trial at the county jail. They were soon re-captured, but the entire county was stirred up and engaged in their pursuit.

September witnessed the building by Mr. J. P. Miller of the frame store building on the southeast corner of Main and Broadway.

The town suffered an epidemic of typhoid fever, two victims being Harry Wilson and Lillie Wilson, two of the most popular and promising young people of our city. They were children of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Wilson, and their death, one occurring November 2nd, and the other November 4th, cast gloom upon the city.

In November a special election was ordered to grant a franchise to establish an electric light plant. This proposition carried by a vote of 193 for to 9 against. The franchise was given to M. Goldheim, L. M. Shaw and Theo. Walker, who were to transfer their right to the company when formed. The Denison paper says that Friday, November 20, 1892, should be considered an important day for Denison as it was the day when this franchise was granted and seemed to be a time when there was a great awakening of citizens to the duty of doing something for the town.

1892.

The paper of June 6, 1892, discloses the fact that the Denison creamery was not in a flourishing way and a meeting of stockholders was held and it was announced that the operating expense of the company for two years had exceeded its income by \$1,000. The creamery was rented to Mr. C. D. Miller, and it was still held that the creamery was a great help to the town and to the farmers surrounding.

This was the year of the great Russian famine and Crawford county took an active part in the relief of the sufferers. Mr. P. E. C. Lally was the chairman of the relief committee and through his efforts and those of committeemen throughout the county a total of \$618.37 was donated. This included three cars of corn which were shipped direct, to be transported in the relief ship sent by America.

On February 16th occurred the disastrous fire in which the McHenry elevator was burned to the ground. In the same week it was recorded that the Denison creamery was rented for three years to Donahue and Ehren, with Mr. Trainer as manager.

At the city election Mr. G. L. Wright was elected mayor and C. M. Staley, recorder. The newly elected members of the council were John Seeman, Geo. Menagh and Henry Noble.

It was in March, 1892, that the project of establishing a Normal school was first broached. Governor L. M. Shaw was the moving factor and in twenty-four hours \$16,000 was raised for the project. This was followed by continued agitation and in a short time the money was raised. The steps relative to this great undertaking have been outlined in another place.

On the evening of May 7th a fatal accident occurred at Dow City, when the overland limited dashed into a buggy containing May Bell and Jay Bell. Miss Bell was instantly killed, while her brother was thrown some thirty feet with no bones broken. They were the children of Mr. Robert Bell, one of the oldest and well known pioneers of the county.

At Denison a movement was started to replace the old water tank which stood in the rear of the Germania Hall by a modern stand pipe. This was finally accomplished after the usual delays and discussions which seem to be inevitable with all public improvements.

One of the most delightful events of 1892 was the musical convention led by Dr. H. R. Palmer. This attracted many people from all over the county and was one of the most successful events that Denison has ever known.

July 19th is a date to be remembered in our business circles for on that day occurred the sudden and tragic death of Meyer Goldheim, who for a number of years had been our most enterprising merchant. He had sold his interests in Denison, removing to Chicago, but had returned to this city to conduct a mid-summer sale for the reduction of stock. The day was one of the hottest of the year and Mr. Goldheim worked hard. In the evening he announced that this would be the last article of merchandise which he would ever sell in Denison. This sale effected, he closed his store, and went to the Fargo house. Suffering severely from the heat he partook of cooling drinks and within fifteen minutes after entering his room at the hotel he was dead. The

remains were sent to his old home at Baltimore for interment and the business houses of Denison were closed in order that his friends might accompany the remains to the train which bore his body to its final resting place. Mr. Goldheim was a genial whole-souled man, of abounding energy and enterprise. He gave Denison a new insight into the progressive business methods and did much to modernize the business of the town. His store was known throughout this and adjoining counties and he did much to make Denison a trading center.

In August the county was again electrified by the news that four prisoners had escaped from the county jail. They dug their way through the brick wall, but in less than twenty minutes three of them were recaptured by a posse and Mr. John Pump was the hero to capture the fourth man. It is amusing to note that on the day following their capture, one of the quartette made his escape through the same hole and was not re-captured.

The prosperity of Denison is shown by the following item of the Denison Review of September 7th: "Never has Denison seemed to be enjoying such an era of prosperity as at the present time. Improvements and new buildings are to be seen on every side. All workingmen have employment. The past year has been a remarkable one for the number of carloads of goods received. The new normal school buildings on the hill to the east are beginning to show up. Soon a fine steel stand pipe will rise on the ground at the north of town and the ungainly tank near Germania Hall be taken down. Lots are being inquired after. Denison is really enjoying a boom."

Among the new firms we note that of Sine Brothers, clothiers, and George R. Neil, photographer. We also note that John F. Pfarr, now one of the prominent merchants, arrived in September 1892, to clerk in the grocery department of J. P. Miller and Co.'s store.

It was in this month that the First National Bank put forth the first issue of currency bearing its name. It was in this year that W. A. Stewart started a short lived Populist paper in Denison.

This was a hard year on the mill and elevator business for early in December the Boyer Valley Roller mills owned by R. Hefflefinger and McKim were totally destroyed by fire. The loss was about \$12,000.

The closing number of the Denison Review for 1892 was an illustrated number devoted to Denison and sketches of its business men and this edition shows the city to have been in a flourishing and prosperous condition.

1893.

The year 1893 witnessed first of all the opening of the Denison Normal from which much was hoped and which has to a large measure fulfilled the expectations of its founders. The school opened with 55 pupils.

On January 1st Charter Oak became a presidential postoffice. Dr. J. J. McWilliams was appointed postmaster with a salary of \$1,000 per year.

It was in the month of January that the county was shocked by the mysterious death of Joseph Winans. This death was the cause of one of the most sensational law suits the county has ever known. Mr. Winans was the son of Clark Winans, one of the old settlers of the county and a member of the

board of supervisors for nine years. The family has always been prominent in the affairs of the northern part of the county. Clark Winans, Jr., was accused of the crime but was acquitted by a jury of his peers after a long trial.

At the municipal election, J. B. Romans was elected mayor as a Republican. The council elected were, A. Gronau, W. J. Sriver, Sears McHenry. E. T. Cochran was elected recorder.

The valuation of the county for 1892 was \$5,287,746, and the total taxes raised was \$156,484.86, of which nearly \$86,000 went to the support of the public schools. The total taxes of Denison incorporation was \$16,732, of which more than one half was for school purposes.

The prosperity of 1892 continued into the following year as is shown by the following list of improvements, either just made or in progress of erection: the stand pipe, the residence of L. M. Shaw, J. B. Romans, warehouse, two store buildings by J. P. Miller, residence of J. F. Burk, two residences by Mr. Gronau, two by Mr. Gulick, residence of T. J. Kelly, the projected erection of a brick store on Broadway by E. Gulick, the erection of a \$20,000 brick church by the Catholic society, the residences being built by A. Currier, T. D. Miller, Fred Brandenburg, Wm. Goudie, Miss Louise Ott, A. C. Weeks, Chas. Galbraith. Projected residences by John T. Carey, Geo. Naeve, H. C. Laub, while Mr. Shaw and Mr. Romans planned two houses in the Normal school addition. Denison property was said to have increased in value from 25 to 50%. The hard times struck the town soon after this, however, and its progress, like the progress of the rest of the county was retarded.

The farm statistics for the year 1892 show 387,268 acres of improved lands with 36,571 acres of unimproved lands. The production of spring wheat was 231,399, of corn 4,855,017, oats 1,169,923, barley 471,622, rye 25,746, potatoes 78,530. The number of horses in the county was 13,728, cattle 44,445, with 330 thoroughbreds. The number of sheep was 9,824, of hogs 72,767. The value of the main crops is given as follows: corn \$1,300,000, wheat \$160,500, oats \$255,000, barley \$120,000, potatoes \$40,000, total for these 5 crops \$1,831,500.

On August 29, 1893, Denison was the scene of a bold robbery in which Frank Evans, night operator at the Northwestern, was held up by masked men. Evans telegraphed the alarm as soon as possible and two men were captured. One the notorious Pat Crowe, the other gave his name as C. L. Baker. These men were placed in the county jail awaiting trial but in October Crowe made his escape, the manner of which is given as follows: Crowe had a brother, a saloon keeper at Omaha, who came up on a visit leaving a bag of fruit at the jail for his brother. This bag was left in the corridor and when Lee Partridge, a youth of about 18, who in the absence of Sheriff Dettman had charge of the prisoners, was about to leave the corridor, he was called back to hand in the bag of fruit. No sooner had he unlocked the cell door than Pat Crowe rushed out and held him by the throat. Baker who was confined with Crowe held Partridge while Crowe picked, with a hook, the outside door. Crowe and Baker both rushed out and Partridge after firing at Baker several shots—recaptured him, but Patrick Crowe was gone. Crowe was never brought to trial in this county and with remarkable gift of prophecy, the Denison Review con-

cludes its account of the escape with the following, "We shall no doubt hear of Pat Crowe again in some desperate enterprise."

In the meantime the proposition for electric lights seems not to have advanced, as the newspaper states "The question is asked when shall we have electric lights? In our opinion when ever either the corporation of Denison or the citizens of Denison put up the plant and not before."

The Old Settlers Picnic for 1893 was held near Halberg Bros. mill near Deloit. A large number were present. Mr. S. L. Gable presided. Addresses were made by George L. Wright, L. M. Gable, Hon. H. C. Laub, G. L. Johnson, who gave an interesting history of the Swedish settlement, Mrs. S. L. Gable, J. D. Seagrave, E. M. Ainsworth. John B. Huckstep was elected president, and N. L. Hunt secretary of the association.

The important business happening near the close of the year was the purchase of C. Stoeck's general merchandise store by Pfarr, Wieland and Gebert. This firm was nicknamed "The Boys," a sobriquet which the firm bears to this day although they are fairly middle aged boys now.

The first electric lights in Crawford county were in the Charter Oak mill owned by Mr. E. S. Plimpton. This was a small private plant installed simply for lighting that building.

1894.

In January 1894 the Crawford County Democrat, a new Democratic weekly made its appearance. It was edited by Alex Stirling. But 16 papers were issued, the paper suspending publication the following May.

In February it was announced that an electric light plant costing \$15,000 would be erected. A contract having been entered into between the city and C. J. and J. G. Griffin, of New Sharon, Iowa. The agreement provided for a charter to run 20 years and for the light company to pump water and supply 20 arc lights for \$2,000 per year.

1894 was a year of hard times. There was but little improvements, and but few new business enterprises.

At the municipal election Mr. Romans was reelected mayor without opposition. The other officers elected were, E. T. Cochran, recorder; E. S. Plimpton, treasurer; C. Green, assessor; John Rowland, Sears McHenry and J. G. Wygant, councilmen.

This was a hard year for the farmers throughout the county and owing to the low prices, many thousands of dollars were lost by cattle feeders especially.

One improvement noted in Denison was \$3,000 expended in improvements on the Methodist church.

An expensive fire occurred in Dow City in August. A barn owned by S. E. Dow being destroyed, together with a large quantity of machinery and six horses. This was the year of the drouth and an estimate of the corn crop is given as follows: "Making an estimate we should say, Crawford county contains 460,000 acres of land, of this, 120,000 acres are in corn, about 40,000 acres or one third will have no crop, another 40,000 acres will have 15 bushels to the

acre and another 40,000 will have 30 bushels to the acre. The general average would be 15 bushels to the acre but chances are that 12 bushels will be nearer the mark. There will be no cattle imported to feed, hogs will be marketed at less weight. There will also be a diminution in the number of horses, cattle and hogs. The profits of the farmer will be small, if any."

The Old Settlers' Picnic for 1894 was held at Grace park, a large number being present. Mayor Romans delivered the address of welcome to which E. M. Ainsworth responded. J. B. Huckstep presided in the afternoon and addresses were made by N. Richards, H. C. Laub, S. E. Dow, John Dobson, E. S. Plimpton, George Rae, Morris McHenry, and Geo. V. Jordan.

On October 3rd occurred the death of Mr. Thos. Luney, one of the pioneers of the county. He came to Crawford county in 1868 settling on a farm between Denison and Vail. He and his sons were among the first to utilize the water power in the East Boyer. They built a work shop for the manufacture of a corn plow which they had invented and later added a foundry, blacksmith shop and machine repair shop. Later they built a flouring mill and finally added a steam engine. Mr. Luney died in his 78th year and was one of our most respected citizens.

The accidental death of N. Jorgensen of Jackson township occurred at this time. Mr. Jorgensen had taken the train at Denison intending to return to his home in Vail, when a through freight crashed into the rear of the way freight demolishing several cars and killing Mr. Jorgensen.

In December, 1894, a local company was formed which purchased the electric light plant for the sum of \$16,000. The stockholders were J. B. Romans, J. P. Conner, Eugene Gulick, M. King, J. N. Bradley, C. J. Griffin, W. H. Woolston, and L. M. Shaw, each of whom subscribed for \$2,000 of the stock. J. N. Bradley was chosen as manager of the plant.

As we have said before this was one of the most trying years that the people of Crawford county have ever known. The Denison Review of December 26th publishes the following letter from a farmer's wife which gives a vivid picture of the situation as it was among the farming people. "Editor Review:—Strange as it may seem with all the charities and donations abroad in Crawford county, nothing (so far as we know) has been done to aid the poor farmers, who in our estimation are by far the greatest sufferers from the terrible drouth—they who toiled and worked so hard all the spring and summer and now have nothing to show for it. Already their great piles of fodder have dwindled away, their hay stacks which were very diminutive at first are daily growing smaller, and their corn cribs are empty. Here is their stock which must have feed from now until another harvest. These bold facts are staring them in the face, and what is to be done?"

There are a great many farmers in the county who have not a bushel of corn, nor any money to buy with. Now, would it not be a good plan for some of the good citizens of Denison to have shipped one or more car loads of corn for distribution among them? I think it can be done, and ought to be. I make this plea in behalf of the farmers, although I am not a farmer myself, but a
Farmer's Wife.

1895.

The year 1895 opened at the court house with an election contest between James Maynard and John White over the supervisorship. On the face of the returns Mr. White was elected by 13 majority, but on a recount of the contested townships, Mr. Maynard was declared elected by a majority of 8.

Appeal was made in the papers to prevent the abandonment of the Fair Ground but as we have seen this was unavailing.

The next event of consequence in the year was the disastrous fire at Dow City on Jan. 11, when the hardware store of J. U. Wise was destroyed at a loss of \$5,000.

The winter was remarkable for its continued severity and the impress of hard times made it a bitter season for all the people of the county.

On March 5th Arthur Cleasby fell through the ice at the mill pond at Dow City and was drowned.

The census taken by the assessor in April gave Denison a population of 2242, of whom 1121 were female and 1121, males. The assessor also reported that during the year 1894 there were but 11 deaths in the city of Denison.

In May of this year the city council resolved to build a new engine house on the lot owned by the corporation. A public fountain was also established on Main street and Court avenue and Mayor Romans raised \$150.00 toward building a platform to be placed in the city park.

During the spring there were numerous showers which were particularly grateful after the dry year before and reassured the anxious farmers of a bounteous season.

June 17, however, was the date of a severe storm which did much damage throughout the county. The McWilliams school house, two miles east of Denison, was completely destroyed, the home of John Rose near Kenwood was completely demolished, and both Mr. and Mrs. Rose were seriously hurt. Barns and wind mills were wrecked, and in Denison many fine shade trees were destroyed, stores were unroofed, and considerable other damage was done.

After considerable agitation a contract to build a new engine house was let to Mr. H. C. Laub. The contract called for a two story brick building, 60x40 at a cost of \$4,700. Mr. J. L. McClellan was the builder. The corner stone was laid July 30, and the building was completed during the year.

In August a list of the early marriages in Crawford were published and as we believe they will still be of interest we insert the list then given.

As will be seen the records were not kept in a complete form at that early date. It was then not compulsory by law to record the marriages. Only those that were reported were placed on record. Between Dec. 25, '56 and Dec. 30, '57, there was a lapse of over a year in which none were recorded.

Below is a list of the parties united in marriage and the date of their marriage.

Samuel Kennedy to Mary Haworth, Sept. 15, '55.

David M. Hall to Sarah Jane Kenedy, May 15, '56.

Tracy Chapman to Celinda Dunham, November 6, '56.

Henry Richardson to Martha Mowry, Dec. 25, '56.

Jacob West to Margaret Manners, Dec. 30, '57.
John Burrel to Anna Hattery, April 25, '85.
Jacob H. Munson to Adaline Goodrich, Aug. 15, '58.
Alexander Perkins to Nancy Rice, Oct. 29, '58.
Wm. McKim to Almeda Darling, Dec. 24, '58.
Morris McHenry to Mary L. Comfort, Dec. 25, '59.
John Purdy to Ellen Bassett, Dec. 25, '59.
Matthis Betts to Margaret Brown, November 6, '59.
Byron C. Adams to Almiro Carrico, Oct. 13, '59.
Edward S. Plimpton to Selina J. Bond, Oct. 12, '59.
E. G. Stockbridge to Lucy Ann Kinney, March 3, '59.
Robert Bell to Ellen McColl, April 28, '60.
Geo. Johnson to Maria Gilbreath, Sept. 23, '60.
Abel W. Jordan to Mary Parmer, Dec. 3, '61.
Hugh McWilliams to Jane Graham, Jan. 30, '62.
Albert Cheshire to Elizabeth Graham, Oct. 18, '60.
Albert F. Bond to Emma R. King, Feb. 9, '61.
S. P. Gardner to Lucinda Herriman, June 3, '61.
Chester M. Hamilton to Lydia Ferry, July 4, '61.
Sidney Rudd to Eliza Jane Hancock, April 14, '56.
Jas. Hattery to Hannah Trann, Dec. 8, '61.
Edmund Howarth to Sabrina Wood, July 6, '62.
Wm. McWilliams to Angeline Gilbreath, July 27, '63.
John B. Morehead to Mary Kennedy, Dec. 6, '63.
Sidney Rudd to Mary Prather, Nov. 13, '64.
S. W. Slater to Sarah Winans, March 16, '65.
Benjamin Stevens to Rose Ann Gray, Feb. 18, '64.
Jos. H. Woodruff to Sarah M. Comfort, Dec. 7, '65.

Despite the promise of the spring, the season of 1895 was a dry one, although the crops were much better than in the preceding year. It was estimated that the corn crop did not average 30 bushels to the acre.

The Old Settlers' Picnic was held in Washington park on Sept. 6, Hon. H. C. Laub presiding. The speakers were J. B. Romans, Thos. Rae, Morris McHenry, W. A. McHenry, J. Fred Meyers, and Mrs. J. B. Romans. More than 1,000 people were said to have been in attendance.

In this year Mr. L. M. Shaw was elected for the third time to represent the Des Moines conference in the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In October, 1895, the management of the Review passed into the hands of Mr. C. E. Wood who conducted the paper until July, 1897.

In December it was reported that the Denison creamery had been sold to the Sycamore Creamery Company of Sycamore, Illinois. The creamery had not been a success and the people were glad to dispose of it.

The town boasted of its prosperity however, as is shown from the following item from the Denison Review: "The new city hall has been completed and the bell hung; the Salomon and Gulick building is almost completed, and Mr. Salomon has moved into his part. Hugh and Kemming have just refitted

their store with a handsome system of electric lights. The Boys are doing likewise. The First National and the Crawford County Banks have been treated to a new coat of paint. A number of new dwellings have just been completed and within the last two weeks two new business firms have joined us."

1896.

The year 1896 was a year of great political activity. The issue of Free Silver was prominent with the people. Party lines were broken down and a large percent of the people were more occupied with politics than with business. Nevertheless, Denison showed a substantial growth and improvement.

Among the improvements made during the year 1896 were:

The Catholic Church	\$20,000
The Postoffice Block	5,000
J. F. Burk store	5,000
C. Sievers Store	7,000
J. P. Miller and Co. store.....	3,500
George Naeve house	8,000
Charles Tabor addition	3,500
M. Wieland addition	1,000
E. A. Stone dwelling	1,800
Thos. McCarthy dwelling	1,700
Mrs. C. Schaffer dwelling	1,200
Bert Oswald dwelling	1,000
John Hoffman, dwelling	1,300
E. F. Tucker dwelling	1,250
J. D. Seagrave dwelling	900
Mrs. Adolphsen	700
Mrs. A. Lochmiller	500
Mrs. Augusta Woock	500
Orlando Orem college lots	500
Hans Hargens	500
William Detlefsen	700
Chris Christensen	700
Henry Rogge	600
<hr/>	
Total	\$66,850
Total additions and improvements	8,875
Permanent street improvements	5,000
Grand Total	\$66,850
<hr/>	
Grand total	\$80,725

Further than this it was reported that there never was a time in Crawford county when the farmers owed so few debts. Banks had been refusing to loan large amounts and merchants had refused credit on small accounts. Liquida-

tion went on for three years until there was but one class of farmers in distress and they were the cash renters.

1897.

In January 1897, Mr. George Naeve purchased an interest in the Crawford county bank with which he has since been identified to such a large extent.

On the local market, corn sold at 10 cents per bushel that is: 10 cents for 70 pounds on the cob; and Mr. E. S. Plimpton erected a crib to contain 50,000 bushels.

Dr. B. F. Philbrook was a new addition to Denison the first part of this year.

There was great trouble at the electric light plant and it was found that the machinery and equipment was inadequate. These were replaced at considerable expense and during the operation the city was without lights.

On February 10th occurred the death of Mr. Franklin Prentice, who came to Crawford county in 1849, and who is mentioned in the earlier part of this work as one of the first settlers of the county.

At the municipal election, the following were elected to the city council: B. Y. Nicholson, F. O. Ivens, G. L. Wright and H. W. Scaggs.

During this year Denison had a fine orchestra under the direction of Mr. B. J. Sibbert, which gave a series of concerts which were greatly enjoyed.

This year also saw the establishment of the first steam laundry which was put in by Mr. Wolcott of South Chicago, and which had for its first place of business the Welch building on the corner of Sweet and Broadway.

In April, Martin Studde committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor at the Farmers hotel. He labored under an hallucination and had written several letters to President Cleveland and later to President McKinley. Failing to receive satisfactory replies to his letters, which doubtless made requests which could not be complied with, he ended his life.

In May 1897, occurred the death of Capt. Benj. F. Darling at Washington, D. C. Captain Darling was one of the first postmasters at Deloit where he kept a general merchandise store.

In June a reception was given in honor of Mrs. Georgia Wade McClellan, who had been elected State president of the Women's Relief Corps. Among the speakers were, J. L. Warbasse, Col. G. L. Wright, A. C. Weeks, Mrs. J. Fred Meyers. Mrs. McClellan became, and is to-day, the most prominent woman in this organization in the United States.

On July 1, 1897, the management of the Review again changed hands, the firm of Meyers and Tucker assuming the lease held by C. E. Wood.

It was in this year also that the erection of a new Presbyterian church was commenced. The building committee consisted of Sam'l. Luney, Sam'l. Eastman, E. T. Cochran, H. C. Cook, Sears McHenry, and H. C. McWilliams.

In the latter part of July came the announcement of the candidacy of Hon. L. M. Shaw for governor of Iowa. This was the absorbing topic of interest in the town and in the county for the remainder of the year and the account

of Mr. Shaw's successful campaign for the governorship has been given in another place.

It was at this time that Mr. C. Sievers, to a large extent, withdrew from the active management of his business taking into partnership with him his son John. It was in this year also that Dr. J. C. Robinson first established himself in the practice of dentistry in Denison.

The corner stone of the first Presbyterian church was laid in September, the principal speaker being Dr. Bailey of Cedar Rapids. Rev. A. G. Martin was pastor at that time.

The campaign of 1897 was exciting. One of the chief features being an address by Wm. Jennings Bryan which drew to Denison an immense crowd from this and other counties.

The Old Settlers Picnic was held on September 2nd. J. B. Huckstep presided and addresses were made by J. B. Romans, George Rae, Col. G. L. Wright, Geo. T. Williams of Ida Grove and others. J. B. Huckstep was reelected president and N. L. Hunt, secretary.

It was in October of 1897 that the telephone exchange was first proposed. Dr. B. F. Philbrook was the chief backer of the movement. This was the forerunner of the excellent telephone system which we have.

A paean of praise is sounded by the local paper in behalf of Denison as follows: There is not a vacant house in Denison, there is not an empty store building, there is not an able-bodied, willing man out of employment, there has not been a business failure for years, a dozen houses are being erected and many more will be erected this fall, the ex-governor of Iowa lives in Denison, the best shipping point on the Northwestern is Denison, one of the finest public reading rooms and libraries in the state is in Denison, some of the largest business concerns in western Iowa are in Denison, the most solvent banks in Iowa are in Denison, no people have better health than the people of Denison.

In October the fair association held a very successful exhibition and in this same month the Denison Review issued a special edition written by Geo. T. Williams, one of the largest editions of its kind ever issued in Iowa. This edition covered the entire county and gave a very good idea of its men and business enterprises at that time.

In November, G. L. Caswell purchased the Denison Bulletin, succeeding J. L. Barker, who edited that paper but a short time.

On November 29th an election was held granting a franchise to the Iowa Telephone Company, which soon after established an exchange.

In December of this year occurred the death of Hans Peterson who was killed by being accidentally shot through the heart while out hunting.

It was in 1897-8 that the Denison papers commenced issuing semi-weekly, the Review later changing to 3 times a week, both afterwards resuming their weekly publications.

In December the Northwestern Overland Flyer, number One, was wrecked at Vail by a mail sack which struck the switch target squarely thus throwing the switch. The entire train of seven cars turned turtle. Nineteen people were injured but fortunately none were killed.

'Agitation was continued for the establishment of an Independent telephone exchange and the year closed with many evidences of prosperity.

1898.

Governor elect Shaw prepared to go to Des Moines to take upon himself the duties of his office. Mr. Cyrus Beard entered the law firm of Shaw and Kuehnle, and at the Methodist Sunday School the farewell to Mr. Shaw, who had been the superintendent for many years, was particularly affecting.

The new Presbyterian church was dedicated June 2, 1898, with appropriate ceremonies.

The papers of June, 1898, give figures as to Denison improvements and show that they amounted to over \$65,000, the chief items being the Presbyterian church, and Manse, \$11,000; the Methodist parsonage, \$3,000; Catholic parsonage \$2,500; and residences erected by Isaac Gillmor, Thos. Norris, Hugh McWilliams, P. E. C. Lally, J. H. Holmes, Mrs. E. S. Holmes, Menagh Bros., H. B. Rockwell, R. Robinson, Will Marshall, A. D. Wilson and John Jones.

In the spring Denison inaugurated a new departure in its school system by instituting a Kindergarten with Miss Elva Bond as teacher. The first kindergarten was held in the basement of the McKim Hall.

On Feb. 8th is chronicled a destructive fire at Vail in which the Cranny livery barn was destroyed. Of the livery stock, thirteen horses and five cows were burned. In this week also occurred the death of J. D. Seagrave, who came to Denison in May, 1857.

This was the year of the war with Spain and the chief interest of the community centered about the war news and with the volunteers from Crawford county. This was a year of intense patriotism. News bulletins were received daily by wire and posted in public places and the people followed the events of the war with intense interest.

March 1st witnessed the inauguration of a movement to establish a Commercial club. This later took form in the organizing of the club with comfortable quarters on Broadway. This organization is in a flourishing condition with C. L. Voss, president; and W. C. Rollins, secretary. This club has been a very efficient instrument in the hands of Denison business men. It has done much to weld the town into an harmonious whole, has taken an active part in the affairs of the city, in Good Roads improvements, and in various enterprises for the good of the town. Aside from this it has afforded a place for social amusement where business men have had opportunity to become better acquainted, thus leading to a much friendlier and saner basis of competition.

At the municipal election C. C. Kemming was elected mayor, G. L. Wright solicitor, E. S. Plimpton treasurer, and A. J. Bond assessor.

On May 1 occurred the death of Mr. J. Fred Meyers, for many years editor of the Denison Review. Funeral services were held at the Presbyterian church. The pall bearers were Governor L. M. Shaw, Lieut. Gov. J. C. Milliman, J. C. McCabe, editor of the Logan Observer, J. B. Hungerford, editor of the Carroll Herald, W. A. McHenry and Judge J. P. Conner. Tributes to his memory were

paid by Rev. A. G. Martin, by Gov. Leslie M. Shaw, by Lieut. Gov. J. C. Millman, by Mr. Hungerford, and by Mr. J. F. Harthun who spoke in German.

On May 2nd the Crawford county volunteers left to join their regiment at Des Moines. They were escorted to the train by the city officials and a large number of citizens and were accorded a touching farewell.

In 1898 the assessed valuation of personal property of the county was given at \$2,975,496, and real estate values throughout the county showed marked increase.

The celebration on July 4th was notable because on that day it was announced to the people that the entire Spanish fleet had been destroyed at Santiago de Cuba. Telegrams to this effect were read at the court yard during the celebration and an account of the celebration states that "the crowd went wild with excitement and cheer after cheer went up from thousands of exultant patriotic throats."

1899.

The year of 1899 was one of great activity in railroad building. The Illinois Central extended its line from Fort Dodge to Council Bluffs passing diagonally through Crawford county with stations at Ells, Deloit, Denison, Arion and Dow City. The Northwestern also built branch lines from Denison to Wall Lake with stations at Deloit and Boyer. The line was built to branch from Boyer and the new towns of Kiron and Schleswig and Ricketts were created. This was the last word in railroad building in Crawford county save a small section of line in the southeast corner of Iowa township, an extension of the Chicago Great Western from Fort Dodge to Council Bluffs. This gives Crawford county a large railroad mileage and market facilities equal to that of any county in the state. There is no place in the county more than six or seven miles distance from a market station. The building of these roads brought a great number of laborers into the county and gave employment to many local men. These extensive railroad operations in themselves were sufficient to make this a prosperous year. Both the Northwestern and Illinois Central erected large and commodious depots at Denison. On the Illinois Central the depot was opened November 20, 1900. The first regular train service of the Illinois Central was established Dec. 5, 1899. The first agent was H. E. Casner who was succeeded Jan. 14, 1902, by W. E. McCloy, who in turn was succeeded, temporarily, by J. H. Loeltz. Mr. M. A. Penny, the present agent, was installed July 20, 1905. Denison now has excellent train service, having between 20 and 30 trains carrying passengers daily. These lines have greatly improved Denison's trade as they have given much easier access to the city.

The Farmers Institute held at Dow City in January of this year was the most successful that the county has known and it is to be regretted that this institution has not been continued.

During the winter Vail suffered from an epidemic of diphtheria. Schools were closed and no public amusements were allowed. There were several deaths before the epidemic was stopped.

During this year the Review undertook to secure a census of the city publishing the names of all the inhabitants. This census showed a population of 2,591 in Denison proper and 216 in the college addition making a total of 2,807.

2,591 in Denison proper and 216 in the college addition making a total of 2,807. Under the list "A" and "B" there were 235 inhabitants listed. A careful examination of the list shows that of these 235 people, 130 were not residents in 1911. This would indicate that in a dozen years the population has changed more than fifty percent. If this ratio is correct it would mean that not more than twenty percent of our people were residents twenty-five years ago.

In the municipal election Wm. McClellan was elected solicitor and Sam'l. Luney, U. G. Johnson, W. T. Wright, Aldermen.

On April 18th, a special election was held for the question of voting bonds amounting to \$15,500 for a new school house building. The women participated in this election. Of forty-seven women, thirty-eight voted for, and nine against the proposition. Later \$7,000 additional was voted and as a result the handsome high school building was erected.

The sale of lots for the new town of Schleswig took place in May, 1899. Six hundred dollars being the highest price paid for a single lot.

In May the plans were broached for the building of the German Methodist church. Rev. Claussen was at the head of the church at this time and the sum of \$3,500 was raised with which a very pretty and substantial edifice was erected.

June 7th and 8th were the dates of a very interesting reunion of Veterans of this and adjoining counties. A large number were present and the town was turned over to the old veterans.

The season was one of violent storms. One in the vicinity of West Side caused serious damage to farm property, one in the vicinity of Charter Oak which destroyed the residence of Godfrey Henning, another in the vicinity of Arion in which Wm. Budde was severely injured.

On June 12th there was a cloud burst which did much damage both in Denison and in Vail, washing out several miles of railroad track.

In June is noted the beginning of the first newspaper at Arion with Del Cummings as editor.

As showing the rising of real estate the sale of the Menagh farm is specially noted, the price being \$65.00 per acre. This was considered a high price at that time.

It was during this summer that Denison came in possession of the Spanish cannon which now ornaments the parking in front of the city hall. This was obtained through the influence of Governor Shaw.

The first train service on the Boyer Valley line was on July 24, 1899.

In August occurred the death of Dr. David McWilliams, the pioneer physician of Crawford county, to whom reference has already been made.

The old settlers held their annual picnic at Washington park. An address by Hon. B. I. Sallinger was the event of the day. Short addresses were given by Morris McHenry, E. S. Plimpton, J. B. Romans, John Dobson. S. E. Dow presided and an interesting paper was read by Mrs. Martha Bruner, which was a feature of the program. Mr. S. E. Dow was reelected president and N. L. Hunt secretary, as usual.

The conference of the Methodist church convened at Denison in September, 1899. This conference was presided over by Bishop J. W. Joyce and brought several hundred clergymen and lay delegates to Denison.

In October a prairie fire raged through the Lutheran cemetery south of Denison and threatened to sweep through Oakland cemetery as well. A score of men fought the flames but, in the Lutheran cemetery, fences were burned and many monuments were blackened and destroyed.

On Saturday, November 11, occurred the most serious railroad wreck in our county's history.

An account of the wreck is as follows:

Nov. 14, 1899.—Crowded Train Run Down.—Twenty-six laboring men were injured in a collision on the Illinois Central two miles north of Deloit shortly after one o'clock on Saturday afternoon. The wreck occurred in a deep cut around a sharp curve and at the time when the work train was bringing a load of one hundred and eighty laborers out from dinner at Deloit. The colliding train was a gravel extra running with clear orders from Rockwell City to Arion. The gravel train was proceeding at the rate of from 15 to 20 miles an hour and the work train at about a ten mile rate. The men were huddled into box cars and as the engine was backing them out of Deloit, the first warning they had was when the engine of the gravel train came crashing through the cars in which they were seated. A terrible scene of confusion, destruction, and agony ensued. The gravel train engine was a complete wreck and the cars were torn to splinters throwing their human freightage to either side of the track amid the groans and screams of the frightened and injured men; some lay prone as they fell so bruised as to be unable to rise, some with broken limbs ran to the right of way fence and then fell fainting from sheer agony. Roadmaster Gillease was among the injured, but despite his broken leg he showed admirable coolness and generalship. Messages for aid were sent to Rockwell City and soon relief trains were on hand and the wounded men were brought to Denison.

The year 1899 closed with a tragedy at Dow City in which the calaboose was burned and an unidentified stranger, confined therein for intoxication, was burned to death.

In business circles there was the usual end of the year changes. Mr. J. L. Pease sold the Palace Bakery to M. M. Bradbury, the J. B. Romans firm became J. B. Romans Company with J. N. Bradley and B. J. Sibbert as partners. The electric light company announced that it would commence all night service on January 1.

The century closed finding Crawford county as a whole in a flourishing condition. New towns had sprung up and their inhabitants were filled with hope and vigor. Prices of produce were good and farm lands were rising in value. Every precinct in the county showed increase in population. Business was in a healthy condition, but the county as a whole was commencing to show the signs of age. Compared with the communities of New England and of the old world, Crawford county is but a babe in arms, but, in the parlance of the bounding west, it had become an old, settled community. It had lost some of the elasticity of youth. A man possessed of \$20,000 was no longer spoken of as one of our wealthiest citizens. Comfortable fortunes had been made, both

in city and in town, and there came more and more into evidence the tendency to enjoy the comforts of years of toil. This was shown in the increasing number of farmers who sold their places or turned them over to their children and who gathered into the various towns of the county to spend their declining years. It was also shown in increasing social activities and a higher standard of literary culture. In short, Crawford county had finally developed a leisure class, and more attention was paid to the mode of living, rather than to the mere struggle for existence. The pioneers of the early day were for the most part gone to their last resting place and the young men who had succeeded them had become staid and middle aged. The business of the county had settled into regular channels. Prices of land had increased to such an extent that they no longer tempted the poor young man who had his fortune all to make, and the great drift of population to the newer states had just commenced. The period of expansion was passed and with the new century came a period of internal improvements. Homes were rebuilt and improved, the cities and towns gave more attention to their appearance and to the comforts of life. There was no lack of prosperity and of vigor but the pulse of the county beat more slowly though with fuller tide.

CHAPTER XXI.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

1900.

We are prone to think our own times slow and inconsequential. The facts of history are built up incident by incident and the gradual growth, to our accustomed eyes, deceives us with the thought that there is but little progress. Watch the erection of an edifice as it rises, brick by brick, and the work seems long drawn out and unsatisfactory, but viewed at intervals and we see that a stately structure has arisen.

Let us view Denison and Crawford county after a lapse of but eleven years and see what has been done in this first decade of the Twentieth Century. In the year 1900 there was scarcely a telephone exchange in Crawford county and there were no rural telephones. There was no rural free delivery. Land values were not within fifty percent of what they are to-day. The towns of Kiron, Boyer, Schleswig and Ricketts were just springing into existence. Practically all that these towns contain has been built since that time. The Illinois Central line had been built but train service was but begun. The roads of the county were in frightful condition and no thought had been given them by the general public. There was not a King drag in the county in 1900. There was not an automobile in the county; they had barely been heard of and, as late as 1904, the passage of a machine through Denison was a matter of extended notice in the papers and of a vast amount of awe and dread and curiosity on the part of the people. The old court house was still in use. The new depots at Denison had not been thrown open to the public. There was not a brick building on Broadway between the Balle Brodersen corner and the Saggau corner, where in a short time will stand a solid front of brick three hundred feet long. The new hotel, the great growth of the creamery business, the magnificent plant of the Nicholson Produce Company were yet to come. An appropriation for a federal building was unthought of. The Review building, the Bulletin building, the handsome block on the west side of Main street were unplanned. Scores of beautiful residences were still numbered among the castles in Spain. The beautiful high school building was unknown. There was no thought of a Carnegie library, some of our churches were in old and insufficient quarters. Free city mail delivery was a dream.

These are among the things which have come to Denison and to Crawford county since, on midnight of January 1, 1900, the bells rang out the old, rang in the new. It is a story of wonderful accomplishment, a story that rivals the Arabian Tales when viewed in retrospect. Our entire mode of life has changed, we are living in a swifter age, our ideals are different. The luxuries of 1900 have become the necessities of 1911. We have gone through the age of the ox-cart and the age of the carriage, we are in the age of the automobile; is the age of the bi-plane just before us?

Nevertheless, it is true that Crawford county and the majority of its towns have lost in population since 1900. The long death roll which will be found in another chapter accounts for many of the older residents, but the younger people have been driven out by the high price of lands, driven to the Dakotas, to Nebraska, to Canada, scattered all over the west, not because Crawford county land is not the best, but because it is too expensive for the man making his start in life. We hope that drouth or misfortune will not shatter the young hopes and drive them back to good old Iowa, but this we know, that Crawford county knows no such words as crop failure and that its hills and valleys are reliable, year after year, giving to the husbandman a safe return for toil.

According to the census, the year 1905 saw the largest population that Crawford county has ever had. It is the last six years that have seen the exodus that has effected the entire state of Iowa. In this drift of population there is nothing to fear. Crawford county will support many more people than it does to-day and, as our country as a whole becomes more densely populated, every acre will be brought to the highest state of cultivation. When that time comes Crawford county can support a population of one hundred thousand and as easily as it supports twenty thousand now.

But this is not history and to tell the story of the years is the mission of this volume. It is perhaps best to let the story tell itself, to unfold, day by day, and year by year showing the many little changes which have wrought the great change. Only a small percent of the many things which Denison has planned have been carried to fulfillment. To many this has been the source of great disappointment and discontent. But no effort for betterment is ever entirely lost. To have tried and failed, is better than never to have tried at all. All these projects, for factories, for civic improvements, for interurbans, for industrial enterprises, all these projects, whether they have failed or not, have been helpful. It is only when a community stops striving that it is a candidate for the tomb. And so the story is to be told of Denison's failures as well as of its successes; but let the story tell itself without further moralizing.

The year 1900 opened auspiciously, there was something in the very air of the new century that inspired with hope and energy. The new railroad lines had been completed, new towns were springing up, crops had been good, and Crawford county was taking its full share of the wonderful prosperity that had come to the nation. In Denison the first business change of importance was the founding of the J. B. Romans Company, Mr. Romans taking with him as partners, Mr. B. J. Sibbert and Mr. J. N. Bradley. Mr. Silas Conyne came with his wonderful box kites, the forerunners of the bi-planes of to-day, and the air of Denison was full of advertising signs. On January 11th, the city, by a

majority of 197, there being no votes against, voted a franchise to the Odebolt Telephone Co. The Iowa Telephone Co. already had a small exchange which was practically the only one in the county.

The proposition to establish a state normal and the effort to have it located in Denison was the next question which stirred our people. A committee consisting of J. B. Romans, J. P. Conner, S. McHenry, C. F. Kuehnle, F. W. Meyers, Chas. Tabor and Chas. Bullock was appointed to represent Denison before the legislature. Owing to the difficulty of locating the proposed new school the bill was finally defeated and the Denison men returned disappointed but not disheartened.

On January 29th, regular trains were run on the Illinois Central. There had been work trains and a temporary schedule before this time, but now the through trains were put on and Denison came to enjoy the full privileges of its location on the great Illinois Central railroad system.

A farmers' institute was held the latter part of January with Hon. Henry Wallace as the chief attraction. This institute was a success.

At Deloit a German-American Bank was established with L. D. Ley, president; Lewis Ley, cashier, and E. T. Dobson, assistant. This institution was short lived and closed on account of lack of business.

In February the Fairmount Creamery took hold of the Denison institution and it soon gave signs of becoming the great success which it is to-day.

The firm of Orkin Bros. which had made a spectacular success in business fields during the late nineties, was sold to A. S. Leavitt who was one of our most aggressive merchants during the next few years, finally leaving to engage in a manufacturing enterprise in New York.

A petition was circulated under the new mulct law and the county, by a large majority decided in favor of wetness. The Bulletin tells of the efforts of different people to obtain dwellings in Denison and states that every house in the town is occupied.

The Deloit boom is further accentuated by the establishment of a newspaper, "The Deloit News," of which Thos. Beaumont was the editor. This also was a short-lived institution and died from lack of nourishment. During March a telephone exchange was established at Charter Oak.

At the municipal election in Denison A. D. Wilson was elected mayor by five majority. W. D. Faus, A. H. Brown and Max Sime were elected to the city council.

During the spring there were all sorts of railroad rumors. First it was the Rock Island which contemplated an extension, then the Milwaukee, then the Minneapolis and St. Louis, then a new road from Sioux City to St. Louis. Surveys were reported and the community was well stirred up with anticipation of more railroad building. It was not until the last of March, 1900, that the new Illinois Central depot was thrown open to the public.

It was during this spring also that there was a general movement to displace the old wooden awnings in front of Denison business houses and a few months later a midnight band removed the last of these unsightly and dangerous structures.

May witnessed the incorporation of the new town of Kiron and told of the progress of that little burg. The only business disaster of the year was the failure of Sime Bros., clothiers, this also took place in May.

In June, Denison entertained the "Log Rollers" of the Woodmen of the World. There were great doings and the whole town was turned over to the visitors.

The business men's association again became active and there was a re-organization with the following officers, J. P. Conner, president; J. B. Romans, vice-president; R. A. Romans, secretary, and U. G. Johnson, treasurer.

In September of this year came Denison's opportunity to secure for one of its citizens the great honor of representing the Tenth Iowa District in the Congress of the United States. Upon the death of Hon. J. H. Gear, United States senator from Iowa, Gov. Leslie M. Shaw appointed Hon. J. P. Dolliver, then representing the Tenth District in congress, as his successor. Denison was quick to see its opportunity and its people rallied to the support of the Denison candidate, Hon. J. P. Conner, with great enthusiasm. The feeling of gratitude on the part of Dolliver and his friends helped to an extent. There were eleven candidates from the fourteen counties of the district and the convention battle at Fort Dodge was hard fought. Ninety-six ballots were necessary before a choice was made and finally victory perched upon the banners of Crawford county. The return of the delegates and the candidate was a triumphal entry, much as was the return of the Shaw fighters in 1897. A notable ratification meeting was held at the opera house at which addresses were made by P. E. C. Lally, J. B. Romans, Chas. Bullock, D. L. Boynton, F. W. Meyers, J. I. Gibson, G. L. Caswell and O. M. Criswell. Mr. J. L. Ainsworth read one of the original poems which have endeared him to the hearts of the people of the county and the meeting closed with a heartfelt response on the part of Judge Conner. Mr. Conner was elected and was re-nominated and re-elected, practically without opposition, until 1908 when the factional conditions existing among the republicans of the district made possible the nomination of an opposing candidate. During his terms in Congress Judge Conner did much for his county and for his district. He was a republican and stood with his party and the republican president on all party questions. He was a member of the Committee on Public Buildings and on this committee he did notable work. The fine public buildings at Boone, at Webster City and at Estherville stand as monuments to his interest and efficiency in behalf of the welfare of his district as do also the appropriations, first for the site and later for the erection of a federal building at Denison. The fact that this county and this district were among the first to enjoy the benefits of rural free delivery must also be placed to his credit.

The nomination and election of Judge Conner brought an era of good feeling which the strife of a partisan campaign could not wipe out and this, with the continued prosperity among all classes, closed the year 1900 in a blaze of glory and good fellowship.

1901.

The year 1901 opened with a blaze of another kind. It was in the basement of St. Rose of Lima church at Denison and the loss was one thousand dollars.

During January Denison became interested in a project to establish a canning factory. The business men appointed a committee to investigate the proposition, but a large bonus was asked and it was felt that it was not justified so the matter was dropped.

In March the Denison fire companies issued certificates of honorable retirement to the following old-time members: W. J. McAhren, B. J. Sibbert, J. B. Romans, Geo. A. Richardson, C. C. Kemming, J. I. Gibson, O. W. Wheeler, A. Aebischer, and L. Seemann.

At the city election almost an entire new council was elected, those chosen being Samuel Luney, C. Sprecher, U. G. Johnson, T. J. Garrison and W. T. Wright.

In April came the impetus for a new library through the gift of Mr. Schee of Primghar. There was some opposition to the conditions of this donation but the demands were quickly met by the generous people of the town and a start was made for improved library conditions.

There were many new buildings, R. Knaul built on Court avenue, R. Lehfeldt erected his handsome home and there were numerous other dwellings.

By May the Fairmount Creamery had progressed so that it manufactured the enormous quantity of 2,000 pounds of butter a day. The average output to-day is about seven thousand pounds.

May 15th was the date of the establishment of the first rural free delivery routes in the county. Five routes were established out of Denison the first carriers being D. Partridge, E. E. Ransom, Fred Marshall, Ira Gillmor, and B. F. Foderberg. E. E. Ransom and Fred Marshall are the only ones of the original carriers now in the service.

1901 was a year of great baseball activity. The team was composed of Baer, Scharnweber, Wilson, Broadus, Rudd, Hester, Branaka, Klock and Kelly, of course. This was a strong team and won many victories. In July the proposition for the establishment of a city library was carried at a city election by a vote of 84 to 50. In August Mr. J. H. Carstens commenced the first brick building on the south side of Broadway, having sold his corner hotel to Mr. Thos. Nielsen.

The year 1901 witnessed the close of Gov. Shaw's administration as chief executive of Iowa and the people of Denison were congratulating themselves that this valued citizen was soon to return to his old home, when the city was electrified by the news that President Roosevelt had honored the Denison man by selecting him as a member of his cabinet in the important position of Secretary of the Treasury. Denison appreciated this honor deeply and still more it appreciated the vast ability which the man from Denison showed in his appointed task.

In September Denison was the scene of the meeting of the editors of western Iowa and this served to give additional advertising to the booming town.

Agitation for a new court house had been active in 1900 but in 1901 it was submitted to the people and was defeated by a majority of 172. Among the closing notable events of the year was the erection of the Germania Halle at Manilla, the formation of the new law firm of Conner and Lally, the opening

of the "Peoples Store" by J. P. Shuler, and the railroad activity caused by the double tracking of the Northwestern system.

1902.

The year 1902 was another year of progress. During the latter part of January a reception was tendered Gov. Shaw on the eve of his departure for Washington and Denison felt that it had at last become a part of the great National government. The year opened with a series of tragic accidents which will be related in another chapter. The sensational failure of E. S. Barnes, his arrest and the subsequent litigation were topics of absorbing interest during the spring months. In March occurred the fire by which the West Denison mills owned by King and Jordan were destroyed, with a property loss of some \$6,000.

At the municipal election J. T. Carey was elected mayor, C. L. Voss, Treasurer, Wm. McLennan, Solicitor, A. J. Bond, Assessor, and Geo. Davis, Thos. McGrin and J. G. Wygant as Councilmen.

April saw the commencement of the handsome brick block erected on Main street by E. Gulick, T. J. Kelly and J. L. Warbasse and in June two special elections took place, at one of which a franchise was granted to the Crawford County Telephone company and at the other by which the corporate limits of the city were increased to more than twice their former size. This proposition carried by a majority of but three votes. This was a year of many rains and, in July, it is recorded that the flood in the Boyer valleys was the highest since 1888. Considerable damage was done throughout the county.

This was the year of Denison's first and greatest street fair. President Roosevelt was billed to be in the city for a short time on September 26th, but on account of a minor accident he was unable to make his western trip as planned. In spite of this disappointment the street fair was a great success. There were many fine attractions and two beautiful parades, one in the daytime and one at night. For the purpose of the parades a contest was held throughout the county for the selection of a Carnival Queen and for Maids of Honor from the various towns of the county. The contest excited much interest and came to a whirlwind finish at an amateur performance given for the benefit of the street fair. Miss Alice White, now Mrs. C. P. Lorenzen, of Denison, was chosen as Carnival Queen and the Maids of Honor from the various towns were Clara McAndrews, Vail, Lydia Benson, Kiron, Ethel Huckstep, Deloit, Miss Gigax, Buck Grove, Clara Roberts, Charter Oak, Tillie Frahm, Schleswig, Miss Talcott, Arion, Marie Riddle, Dow City, Marie Herre, West Side, Nettie Bidlack, Manilla, and Freda Voss, Ricketts. The attendance at this fair was very large and it was perhaps the most successful event of the kind Denison has ever known.

Late in the fall Denison made its first real steps towards a modern sewer system and in November the entire town jubilated over the fact that the court house proposition was carried at the general election by a majority of 517. This provided for the issuance of bonds to the amount of \$75,000 for the erection of the new building and the board of supervisors at once took action to carry out the will of the people.

The fact that Denison was soon to be graced by a new court house encouraged its people to dream of a Greater Denison and in the latter part of November a number of the prominent business men began to plan together the building of a new hotel. Thus another year passed with the entire county in a prosperous condition and with its county seat thrilling with new hopes and with large plans for the future.

1903.

The year 1903 opened with many business changes: Mr. John Rohwer retired from the Nicholson Produce Co. The lumber firm of Stone and Temple dissolved partnership, Mr. W. R. Temple continuing the business; Roeh Bros. sold their blacksmith shop to Max Wulf. It was announced that W. R. Bamford of Charter Oak would establish a new dry goods and millinery store, a new attorney was announced in the coming of Mr. P. W. Harding, also of Charter Oak. The most important business announcement, however, was that Mr. J. P. Miller had sold his interest in his general merchandise business and that a new firm to be known as the Balle-Brodersen Co. had been founded to carry on the business. The Miller store was then in its twenty-ninth year and its history had been one of marvelous success. During the later years Mr. Miller had not given the business his personal attention and it had been under the control of Mr. A. C. Balle and Mr. B. Brodersen who now became the chief members of the new firm.

The very first week of the new year, 1903, Denison was visited by a terrific blizzard and wind storm. During the erection of the new block on Main street the city had granted permission for the owners to locate the old frame buildings on the streets so that business need not be interrupted. These buildings were moved and set up on temporary foundations of house-moving blocks. The old Warbasses building was located on the corner of Main and Tremont streets next the Bulletin office. With its open foundation this building formed an admirable target for the wind and it was completely wrecked, being blown over against the Bulletin office and damaging that property to some extent.

January 19th was the day when the Crawford County Telephone exchange was first opened for regular business and this gave the people something which they had not had before, telephonic communication with the farmers.

On January 19th the court house bonds were sold, bringing a premium of \$450 and on February 9th, after a close competition in which a large number of architects participated, the plans presented by Mr. George A. Berlinghof of Beatrice, Nebraska, were accepted and he was appointed to superintend the erection of the building. In March the old court house building was sold at public auction to Mr. Henry Hoefer for \$302. Later this building was purchased by Mr. F. P. Timm and was moved to the corner of Broadway and Dyer streets where it now stands. This was the largest brick building ever moved in the county.

In April the county offices were removed to a temporary structure built on ground donated by the city, just west of the court house square; here these offices remained until the new building was completed. On June 11th the contract for the court house building was let to J. H. Sparks of St. Joseph, Mo., for the sum of \$74,740.00. Later Mr. Sparks found that he could not furnish the necessary

bond and the contract was canceled and the certified check which he had deposited was forfeited. A new advertisement for bids was published and on October 13th the contract was let to Marxen and Rokahr of Atlantic, Iowa. This time the specifications were greatly modified, however. It was proposed to eliminate the tower, do away with the marble wainscoting and otherwise to cut down the expense. The contract price was \$75,000.00 and the first actual work on the new court house was done on November 10th, 1903, little more than a year after the election which authorized the building.

At the city election George Davis, U. G. Johnson and W. T. Wright were re-elected as councilmen. In the meantime the city hummed with life and activity. The residences of Z. T. Hawk, N. L. Hunt and R. Shaw Van were under erection, simultaneously, within a block of each other and many other beautiful residences were erected. Base ball flourished with a team composed of Freed, Klock, Robinault, Faul, Petersen, Branaka, McAlpin and Kelly. In June came the long deferred visit of President Roosevelt. The people were gathered from far and near. There had been heavy rains, washouts on the railroads and heavy roads for the farmers, but nothing deterred the great crowd from coming. The Presidential train arrived early in the morning over the Illinois Central from Council Bluffs, but it was not until 8:30 a. m. that the President left his car and entered the carriage provided for him. Secretary Shaw was with him, proud to show the President the town from which he hailed. The streets were beautifully decorated and the line of march was lined with shouting thousands. The President drove through the city, greeted the school children who were drawn up in battle array with colors flying, and noted the progress of the beautiful city. The Sac City company of the Iowa National Guard acted as military escort and five bands added to the general joy. Returning to the Illinois Central station President Roosevelt spoke for some time from an improvised platform and then fought his way through the crowd and was carried onward on his journey. An all day program had been provided by Denison and the ten thousand visitors enjoyed themselves greatly in spite of mud and heat.

On August 20th occurred the dedication of the new Catholic church which had been erected at a cost of \$12,000.00. Bishop Garrigan delivered the dedicatory sermon and a number of high officials of the church were present at the impressive ceremony.

This also was the year when oil was discovered (?) in Sac county and wily promoters struck several "gushers" in the county of Crawford. It was also the year of the second street fair. This would have been as successful as the first, perhaps, but Jupiter Pluvius interfered and the fair was fairly flooded out. This was also the fate of Forepaugh's circus which came to the city but which was unable to unload its cars on account of the floods.

In October the city let the first of its sewer contracts to G. M. McAhren for the sum of \$2,180 and this good work was rapidly pushed. In November occurred the fire which destroyed the third story of the old Wilson House and put that hostelry out of business. In the same month Mr. Geo. Menagh purchased a store on Broadway and commenced the merchantile career which has proven so successful. Taken all in all the year 1903 left Denison and the entire county in

much better condition than it found it and it must be credited as being one of the best years in our history.

1904.

A scarlet fever scare opened the following year very inauspiciously but this was dispelled as spring approached and the business of the town had time to draw a long breath before the activities of the coming season.

The first note of progress was when it was announced that the Balle Brodersen Co. had bought the Nielsen hotel property on the corner of Main and Broadway and would erect a modern dry goods palace thereon. This was soon followed by the announcement that Mr. Nielsen had bought lots to the west and would erect a brick hotel. Among the business changes at the first of the year was a change in the J. B. Romans Co. by which F. O. Ivens and Ernst Sibbert became interested in the concern. W. E. Terry also sold his grocery to Geo. H. Vincent. The Luney Mills had been sold and had been closed down the year before. C. Jungerman opened a bakery and there were other minor business changes.

At the city election J. T. Carey was re-elected Mayor without opposition, the first time this has happened in the history of Denison. Geo. Davis, J. H. Jones and J. G. Wygant were elected councilmen.

In April came the failure of the Green banks at Dow City and at Buck Grove. These failures caused great hardship to the people in those vicinities but did not affect the prosperity of the county as a whole.

Denison purchased new fire equipment in the shape of a chemical engine and pushed its work of sewer building. The state declamatory contest was held here and attracted much attention.

Mr. John Saggau commenced the erection of a fine brick block on Broadway early in the spring and as these were nearing completion a number of the younger business men conceived the idea of renting the second story of one of his buildings for a permanent home for a Commercial Club. The idea was carried out and very soon some fifty members were secured. The dues were ten dollars for initiation and one dollar per month thereafter. With this fund the rooms were handsomely furnished and this club has been the center of Denison's activities since that time. The first president of the new club was Mr. J. E. Balle.

On June 23rd a Denison paper makes extended mention of the coming of a Moores four cylinder, thirty horse power automobile through Denison, en route from Omaha to Chicago. This was perhaps the first auto tourist on the Transcontinental route and it attracted great attention. A crowd gathered in Main street and the obliging chauffeur stopped and explained just how the machine worked and its every movement was followed by wondering eyes. The Denison paper states that a number of these machines are owned in Chicago and the large cities and that it is learned that Denison parties are thinking of buying one. Mr. E. C. Chamberlin was the pioneer autoist of the county, buying a machine in the fall of 1904. It was a wonder to all the people and it was an object of the greatest aversion to the drivers of horses.

While the horses of the community were being broken in to their new rivals, the library project had not languished in Denison. Mr. Andrew Carnegie donated \$10,000.00 for a building and Mr. J. P. Miller donated the site. Mr. Carnegie's donation was afterwards increased to \$12,500.00 and with this money the handsome building was erected. The work on the court house also progressed and as it seemed a pity not to complete the plans of the architect, a proposition was submitted to the people asking for \$40,000.00 additional for the completion of the building. The result of the election was favorable.

The corner stone of the new court house was laid July 30th, 1904, with appropriate ceremonies. Rev. G. E. Morphy of the First Baptist church led in prayer. Auditor M. J. Collins presided. Addresses were delivered by Hon. J. P. Conner who spoke in behalf of Denison. E. H. Swasey spoke in behalf of Dow City, Theo. Rohwer in behalf of Schleswig, M. O'Connor in behalf of Vail, W. S. Moore in behalf of Manilla while Mr. J. F. Harthun represented the Germans of the county. The corner stone was laid by Hon. H. C. Schroeder, chairman of the board. The stone was thirty inches square and contained two metallic receptacles in which were enclosed the following articles: a map of Crawford county, the financial report of the auditor for the preceding year, a copy of the illustrated Review, issued in 1897, current issues of the Denison Review, the Denison Bulletin, the Denison Zietung, the Denison Demokrat, The Dow City Enterprise, The Denison College Star, programs of the Friday Club, account of the organization of the D. A. R. Catalogue of Denison College, picture of the old court house presented by F. P. Timm, numerous business cards, a list of the members of the chorus and of the Kiron-Schleswig band which took part in the exercises and a program of the day. Rev. J. H. Sharpe of the Presbyterian church closed the exercises with prayer.

In August followed the dedication of the Carnegie library, with state librarian Johnson Brigham and Hon. M. J. Wade as the principle speakers. In August, also, the contract for the Balle Brodersen block was let to Mr. Frank Fee for the sum of \$21,000.00.

The coming of Vice President Fairbanks in October was a political event, but it drew a large crowd to Denison and accentuated the importance of the town as a political center. The year closed with a blizzard in which T. W. Butler of Arion was killed.

1905.

In January, 1905, the board of supervisors proceeded to carry out the will of the people by letting additional contracts for the completion of the court house. The building of the dome was let to Marxen and Rokahr, the original contractors. The Chicago Gas and Electric Fixtures Co. secured the contract in their line for \$1,600.00, the Art Metal Co. of Johnstown, N. Y., secured the contract for vaults and metal furniture for \$4,227.50 and Mr. John Fastje of Denison secured the contract for the wood furniture for \$6,535.00.

At the Commercial Club, Mr. J. E. Balle was re-elected President. In newspaper circles, The Leader, which had been established by Mr. W. S. McVey, suspended publication, the Denison Review fulfilling its subscription contracts. It

was during this spring that W. A. Lamborn began his successful career as a Denison merchant.

In March, Prof. Holden visited Denison with his Seed Corn special and there is no doubt but that his coming gave renewed impetus and intelligent direction to the agricultural interests of the county.

The municipal election resulted in the choice of M. D. Wright, Julius Mahler and John Schnoor as members of the city council.

On the second day of April the county poor house was burned to the ground and the county was confronted with the problem of providing for its paupers elsewhere. This is being done up to the present time, although the new county home is now nearing completion.

E. C. Petersen, who had been the proprietor of the Hub Clothing store for several years, left this spring for Kansas City and his store was later sold to Huettmann Bros.

On April 20th, Prof. King came to Denison and gave exhibition of the work of the famous King Drag. There is no question but that this simply revolutionized the road work of the county, and while its use is still much too limited, it has made good roads wherever used and has been worth thousands of dollars to the people of this county alone.

In June the results of the state census were made known. This census showed the county at the high tide of its prosperity. The population of the entire county was given as 20,981, and of the towns of the county as follows: Denison 3,188, Manilla 795, Schleswig 425, Arion 194, Dow City 541, Vail 676, West Sde 449.

During the summer there were the following noteworthy events: Mr. Ivens sold his interest in the J. B. Romans Co. to Mr. Ed. Reimers; the Balle Brodersen Co. moved into its new building, July 17th, George Menagh added a dry goods department to his growing store, the Review commenced the erection of its two story brick home, Mr. Menagh bought the Sievers building on Main street and added harness and hardware departments, the Nicholson Produce Co. enlarged its plant and removed to its present location near the Northwestern depot, Mr. John Schnoor sold his harness shop to Semann Bros. who established a harness factory, both the Review and the Bulletin installed Simplex type-setting machines, and, late in the year, the hotel project was revived and plans made to carry it through.

1906.

There is no need to dilate upon the achievements of 1905, the simple narrative speaks for itself and 1906 proved to be its twin in accomplishment. Denison was progressive in the true sense of the word. A gas plant was proposed but after much talk, failed to materialize. The work of promoting the new hotel was pushed and to this was added the plan to build an opera house. Still later the hospital project was added. In March, 1906, a committee consisting of E. Gulick, J. B. Romans, C. L. Voss, Sears McHenry and George Naeve was appointed to solicit stock subscriptions. A number of prominent citizens subscribed \$3,000 each for the three projects and all the business men of the town did what they could to help. There was a veritable fever of giving and before the subscription

campaign was finished it seemed that all three of these improvements were in sight. In May, the Denison Improvement Company was formed with a capital of \$75,000. The officers were George Naeve, President, E. Gulick, Vice President, C. L. Voss, Secretary, and Sears McHenry, Treasurer. It was the purpose of the company to erect and operate a hotel and an opera house. It was decided to build the hotel first and the following building committee was appointed: E. Gulick, Chas. Tabor, George Naeve, W. J. Scriver, C. Gronau, Sears McHenry, and J. F. Glenn. Plans drawn by Architect E. L. Barber were accepted and the contract for the building was let to Mr. Chas. Christensen. He commenced work, August 9th, 1906, but it was not until September 30, 1908, that the hotel was opened under the management of Mr. Dunn to whom it had been leased. The desire to have the hotel the very finest of its kind led to large expenditures and this together with the panic of 1907 compelled the temporary abandonment of the opera house project. In the meantime however the Germania Verein had turned over the old opera house property to the new company, taking stock in payment, with the exception that the Improvement Company was to pay the indebtedness of the Verein. The Verein was also to have the free use of the building for opera house purposes until work on a new opera house was actually commenced. Later, through the efforts of Hon. J. P. Conner, the government appropriated \$10,000 for the purchase of a site for a federal building. The old opera house site was selected and was sold to the government by the Improvement Company, together with adjacent land owned by Mr. J. T. Carey.

Under the management of Mr. Dunn the Hotel Denison achieved a great reputation but was managed on too large a scale to pay and after a year the lease was given up. The Improvement Company thereupon sold the building, furnished complete, to Mr. Thos. Nielsen, his brick hotel on Broadway, the Nielsen House, becoming the property of the Improvement Company. This has since been leased to Mr. A. Vanderwall and is operated as the Wilbur Hotel. While the hotel was sold to Mr. Nielsen for about \$20,000 less than it cost the stockholders are well satisfied, for Denison now has the finest hotel for a town of its size in the entire United States and it is under careful and successful management. Just how soon the Improvement Company will undertake the second part of its mission, that of erecting an opera house, cannot be stated. It will probably not come about until the government begins active steps towards the erection of a postoffice building when Denison will find itself confronted with the fact that it has no place for public gatherings. In the meantime The Denison Hospital Company was also formed with a capital of \$15,000. The officers were B. Brodersen, President; Chas. Bullock, Vice President; U. G. Johnson, Secretary and T. J. Kelly, Treasurer. This company proceeded with the erection and furnishing of a hospital building. The contract was awarded to Mr. Chas. Christensen and work was commenced May 10th, 1906. The building was leased to Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Johnson who had already established a private hospital, and it was occupied February 16th, 1907. The hospital continued under their management until the present year when it was leased to Dr. W. W. Holmes, the present manager. The hospital is well equipped, and while it has paid no dividends, and none were expected, it has proven a great blessing not only to Denison

but to the people of the entire county and doubtless has been the means of saving a number of lives as well as relieving much suffering.

Resuming the narrative of the year 1906, however, it is found that the next noteworthy public project was brought forward by the Federated Women's Clubs of the city, who directed attention to Oakland cemetery and asked that it be placed under public ownership. The question was fought out in the city council and developed much opposition among those who held that this was a sectarian cemetery and should not be paid for at the public expense. This idea prevailed but the work started by the ladies finally crystalized in the formation of the Denison Cemetery Association, which purchased the old cemetery together with additional ground and which has done very much towards beautifying the city of the dead. The principal officers of the association are W. J. Sriver, President, and O. M. Criswell, Secretary. Under the direction of this association a landscape architect was employed who made plans for the future beautifying of the grounds, which plans are being carried out as means will permit. The women of the city have been largely instrumental in carrying on this work and have contributed generously both to it and to the hospital.

On July 5th the new court house was first occupied by the county officers and elsewhere in this volume we present a picture of the first trial held in the new court room.

On July 21st there occurred a meeting in Denison, laughable now, but in deadly earnest then. During the years following the advent of the first automobile in 1904 a number of citizens had purchased these new and terrifying machines. The horses of the county were violently opposed to the innovation and were wont to dispute the right of way with every passing machine. The owners of horses objected also, farmers' wives were afraid to come to town and the evening pleasure drive of the townfolks was discontinued. In this dilemma a call was issued for a public meeting of remonstrance. A meeting was held at the city hall which was attended by a goodly number of farmers and citizens and the few who owned automobiles. The chairman stated the object of the meeting as follows: "It is thought best to organize and agree not to trade with anybody who owns an automobile, nor with anybody who drives one or who hires a man who uses one, and further not to vote for any man for judge or legislator who would not agree to use his influence to abolish the machines from the highway."

A number of speeches were made along this line and various experiences were related as to frightened teams and overturned buggies. Finally a committee was appointed to embody the wishes of the meeting in a resolution. It was pointed out to the committee, however, that the proposed boycott was in violation of the laws of the state and thereupon the following was introduced and adopted:

"We the undersigned request that the owners of autos keep them off the public highways as they are a detriment to both town and country and constantly endangering the lives of the public. It seems that the wish of the many should be respected by the few."

Commenting upon this meeting a Denison paper gravely suggests that the use of automobiles should be restricted to certain highways, concerning which the public should be notified and that a certain place should be designated where

owners of machines should drive every day and where farmers and others might come with their horses to get them used to the machines. It was in this same year that autoists were fined for running over a goose in the public highway, with never a thought that the highway was not the proper place for geese of that variety.

These incidents are laughable now, but there was merit in the contention at that time, for the pleasure and the safety of the highway was in fact denied the people until the horses became accustomed to their new neighbors and competitors.

In September the Grand Army post of Denison celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary and this was also the first year of the county fair at Arion. In October the Rural Free Delivery service of the county was reorganized and in March of 1907 Denison acquired its seventh rural route.

In December, 1906, the city of Denison arranged for a new fire alarm system. The city was divided into fire districts and a dial at the fire station was supposed to indicate the location of the fire. For some reason this system has never proven of value and it is not now in use.

1907.

The sensation of the new year 1907 was the murder of Fred Nawfl, a Syrian peddler. The capture, trial and conviction of the Hassan brothers for this crime was the center of intense interest for a long season. In events of public importance to Denison this year was the least fruitful of any of the past decade. The building of hotel and hospital was a great drain even upon such a public spirited community and the city rather rested on its oars and caught its breath after its strenuous efforts.

At the city election M. D. Wright, P. J. Eggers and E. F. Tucker were elected councilmen. About the only noteworthy improvement was the improvement to the Laub block on the corner of Main and Broadway. Great interest was taken in a semi-professional base ball team. Among the business changes was the sale by A. D. Randall to A. F. Boylan, of his interest in the jewelry stock they had purchased of J. L. Warbasse. It was in April of this year that Mr. J. B. Romans retired from the business life of the community, his interest being purchased by other members of the firm which continued, however, under the name of the J. B. Romans Co. It was in this month also that Mr. Wm. Savery became connected with the Denison Bottling Works, a concern which he and his partner, Mr. James Mitchell, have made the foremost institution of the kind in western Iowa. On May 14th occurred the disastrous fire at Ricketts which nearly wiped that little town from the map of Crawford. This was also the year of the well remembered celebration at Dow City when more than sixty of the celebrants were victims of ptomaine poisoning, supposedly from the ice cream sold at the stands. None of the victims died, but for some days it was feared that there would be fatal results. In Denison, the first of its series of Chautauquas was held. It was largely attended, immensely popular and has since become one of the institutions of the town and county. It has been conducted each year as a part of

the Redpath Chautauqua system and a sufficient guarantee has already been given to assure its continuance for the year 1912.

August 28th was the date of an unprecedented flood in Denison. There had been heavy rains but nothing in the way of an alarming flood was anticipated. In the early hours of the morning the operator at the Northwestern station noticed the angry waters rushing just south of the railroad embankment; on account of the storm the telephone was out of commission so that he could not give the alarm. He called upon a tramp to notify the nightwatch, but that officer feared it was a hoax in an attempt to get him off his beat so that a burglary might be committed. It was thus some time before the alarm was given. When at last the fire bell was rung the people found the entire south portion of the town surrounded and cut off by the swollen waters of the East Boyer. More than a hundred people were living in this part of the city and some of them were calmly sleeping while the waters raged. Ropes were manned and men swam and waded out into the dark waters in the effort to reach the endangered people. Finally boats were secured and many were thus brought to the station platform which was high and dry. Fortunately the waters receded by morning and no lives were lost although the property damage was considerable. It was felt by many that this flood was partially caused by the low railroad bridge which was said to hold back the waters. After a second, but less disastrous flood, the Northwestern Company built an expensive three track, steel bridge with sufficient clearance so that it is not believed the flood experience will ever be repeated.

The financial panic of 1907 was as little felt in Denison and in Crawford county as any place in the United States. The banks found themselves well prepared and the people had full confidence in them. While all reasonable precautions were taken to conserve the cash in the community there was no resort to clearing certificates or other artificial means of increasing the circulating medium and there never was a day when the banks of Denison did not meet all the demands of their customers. This panic had, however, its effect on all classes of business. Coming as it did at the opening of the autumn trading season it curtailed business in every line and it was a number of months before a normal condition was reached. Nevertheless there must have been money for amusements for it was in November that Denison acquired its first moving picture show and it achieved an unqualified popularity. The poultry show, given in December was well attended and highly successful. The Commercial Club joined with the Boyer Valley Poultry Association holding a corn exhibition in connection.

1908.

The early months of 1908 were saddened by the death of a number of the old settlers of the county as well as by many deaths among the younger people. There was no epidemic but the death roll from various causes was large. The most enlivening feature of the winter months was the coming of the racers in the New York to Paris automobile race. They reached Denison with the roads in the worst condition possible. The whole town turned out to greet the American car which was the first to arrive and hearty welcome was accorded the French car

and the Italian car, which was forced to remain here several days, and which made an ineffectual attempt to proceed to Council Bluffs driving over the railroad ties of the Illinois Central track. The coming of the "Protos," the German car, was made a gala day by the German American citizens. The plucky Germans were banqueted at the Nielsen Hotel and the Commercial Club rooms were thrown open for their reception.

The postal receipts of Denison for the year closing June 30, 1907, had exceeded \$10,000 and this entitled the city to free delivery. There were many preliminaries and, strange to say, some opposition, but the preliminaries were arranged, houses were numbered, the city was districted and city free delivery was finally established May 15th, 1908. As a result of a competitive examination N. E. Lafferty, A. Aebischer and Malcolm Heiden were appointed as Denison's first letter carriers and up to date there has been no change in the personnel of the carrier force. As we have already seen, Judge Conner while a member of Congress secured for Denison an appropriation of \$10,000 for a postoffice site. Later he represented the business men of Denison and prevailed upon the Committee on Public Buildings to make an authorization of \$50,000 for a building. The actual appropriation has not been made available up to this time, but Denison feels sure that its time is coming.

July witnessed the opening of the Empire Clothing Co. with Kirkup and Ahren as proprietors and in December it was announced that the Nicholson Produce Company would incorporate, build an extensive plant and engage in the cold storage and artificial ice business. This was welcome news and work on the new buildings was commenced as soon as possible and was completed the following spring.

One of the chief social events was the banquet tendered by the citizens in honor of Hon. J. P. Conner before his departure for Washington to serve his last session in Congress. The gathering was helpful, not only as a recognition of Judge Conner's eminent services but as a means of bringing the business men into closer relationship and inspiring renewed effort for the good of the town.

1909.

January 1, 1909, brought the usual business changes. H. L. Allard sold the Racket Store to Heiden & Co. The firm of Bartcher Bros., furniture dealers, was dissolved and succeeded by Bartcher and Ewall, the Jungerman bakery was sold to P. Freihage. The winter was cold and stormy and there were but few events of importance to the community until the coming of spring. During February and March farmers' institutes were held at Charter Oak, West Side and Boyer with but partial success and none have been held since. In April a session of the Iowa Presbytery was held at Denison, bringing with it a large number of Presbyterian clergy and laymen. This month of April was further memorable for two events: on the 16th, the first artificial ice was made in Denison, and on the 7th, Mayor W. C. Rollins first attracted the attention of the people to the question of street paving. There had been desultory talk along this line previously, but in a speech before the city council Mayor Rollins urged the paving of the following streets: Main street, from City Hall to North-

western depot; Broadway, from Hotel Denison to the Tamm implement house; Court avenue from Broadway to Hotel Normandy; Tremont street from the Normandy to the Merchants Hotel, and Sweet street from Tremont to Chesnut. The paving question is too recent and too burning an issue to be discussed in a history, suffice it to say that no active steps were taken by the city until 1911. Resolutions of necessity were passed ordering all the paving recommended by Mayor Rollins and some additional streets. Advertisements were made for bids and an engineer was employed. When the time arrived for letting the contract, however, so much opposition was shown by the citizens for various reasons that the entire project was dropped for the time being.

To go back to the year 1909, other April events were a fire at Dow City, in which a considerable portion of the business district, including the postoffice, was destroyed; while at Denison there came the welcome news that Mr. Martin Saggau would build a handsome brick block on Broadway. This building was erected during the summer and is now occupied by H. W. Moeller, cigar manufacturer; John Fastje, furniture dealer; J. A. Rachwitz, with a meat market and by the Denison Bottling Works, while the entire second story is used by various lodges, making a very attractive hall.

In May it was found that the mulct petition under which the saloons of the county were running was defective except as regarded the saloons of Denison. Accordingly the other towns of the county suffered an unparalleled dry spell while new petitions were being circulated. These petitions received the required majority save in Kiron and in Manilla, and the saloons were reopened in June.

Denison took a long stride in advance in May when day service was permanently established by the electric light company. The growing business of the town demanded this service and it has been a paying venture for all concerned.

June was marked by another flood, which was at its worst at Vail, where the main business street was completely inundated. The rains continued through June and July, but the coming of the Glidden tour put the people on their mettle to provide a good road. A portion of the road between Denison and Arion was under water. A considerable fund was raised and, with the co-operation of the Illinois Central, the citizens had embankments dug through, tiles laid and the road well drained before the coming of the racers. A portion of the road was planked, however, for their convenience. The Glidden tour served again to call the attention of the county to the question of good roads.

July 21st was the date of a gala day at Schleswig and soon after some thirty people who had attended were stricken with typhoid fever. These people were scattered in all parts of the county and in this epidemic a number died and others were shattered in health for the remainder of their lives. This, like the epidemic at Dow City, was attributed to unsanitary food conditions.

Among the summer events at Denison was the great German Day celebration when the Militarische Bruederschaft dedicated a new and expensive, hand embroidered, silk flag which had been made in Germany at their order. Another event, unique in its way, was Auto Day. Under the auspices of the Commercial Club the motorists were interested to donate the use of their cars and the farmers and their families were invited to come and have an automobile ride. The machines were still comparative novelties and a large number availed themselves

of the invitaton. A regular course was laid out which included a brief trip about the city and out into the country and upwards of twelve hundred people were driven about, many of them then enjoying their first automobile ride. The results of Auto Day were satisfactory. The effort served to help break down the prejudice against the machines and ultimately it is believed that it resulted in many sales among the farmers of the vicinity.

The second county fair was held at Arion in September. The attractions were good but the weather prevented an entire success from a financial standpoint. In October the German-Americans celebrated October 6th in commemoration of the landing of the first Germans in America in 1623. On October 10th a large portion of the business district of Arion was destroyed by fire. This included the large stock of the Arion Mercantile Company, a store which was not rebuilt.

At Denison the attention of the city was called to its inadequate water supply and four deep wells were finally contracted for. These wells are now in use but the city is still confronted by a water problem.

In November a special election was held on the question of authorizing the school board to purchase additional grounds adjacent to the high school. The proposition carried by fifty-four majority, of which the women voters furnished fifty-one.

In November the Commercial Club gave the first of a series of "booster" dinners at which the affairs of the community were discussed. In December two notable business men retired, Mr. T. J. Kelly, who sold the numerous shoe stores that had made him famous throughout the state, and Mr. R. A. Romans, who removed to Aberdeen, South Dakota. In December, Denison had its most spectacular fire when the lofty water tank owned by the Illinois Central was destroyed on the night of the ninth.

The year 1909 also saw the commencement of a great project for the county when petitions were presented to the board of supervisors asking that the channel of the Boyer river be straightened from the Harrison county line to a point east of Arion. This petition was granted, plans were drawn and accepted, the contract let and the work is still progressing slowly, but satisfactorily. It is expected that this drainage ditch will ultimately be extended along the Boyer and the West Boyer to the Sac county line. This work has received more extended mention under the chapters on "County Government."

1910.

With the first days of 1910 came the announcement from Vail that C. C. Vail, for many years editor of the "Observer," had sold his interests to Mr. M. J. Monaghan, and that the pioneer firm of Ryan and Ratchford was to go out of business. At Denison Mr. W. R. Kirkup sold his interest in the Empire Clothing Company to his partner, M. J. McAhren, and a few months later he and his family left to make their home on the Pacific coast. R. A. Norris purchased the Kelly shoe store in Denison. A merger was effected between the Iowa and the Crawford County telephone companies, the former retaining the toll lines and the latter operating the consolidated exchanges.

The business activity of the county was shown by the fact that during the first days of March the real estate transfers recorded for the county reached the enormous amount of \$1,500,000.00.

At the city election W. H. Laub was elected mayor, and Chas. Christensen, J. T. Haugh, A. Green, P. J. Eggers and Chas. French were elected aldermen. This was the first election under the system of electing aldermen at large, together with one from each ward.

In April an ineffectual attempt was made to interest the people in the establishment of a gymnasium and to-day there hangs in the Bank of Denison a well started subscription list for that object, a list which should be completed. Other projects which interested the people but which failed to materialize were propositions to employ a team for the use of the fire department and to build an interurban line to the northwest, with Sioux City as the objective point. While these projects failed, Denison may at least point with pride to the fact that it was the founder of what is known as the "Transcontinental Route" across Iowa from Council Bluffs to Clinton. The association which is back of this route had its birth in a resolution passed by the Denison Commercial Club in May, 1910. Under this resolution a committee was appointed to confer with the other cities and towns along the proposed route for the purpose of forming an organization for its improvement and maintenance and its advertisement as an automobile highway. The committee consisted of W. C. Rollins, Dr. R. F. Philbrook and F. W. Meyers. The committee met with cordial response and the work resulted in a meeting, first at Denison and then at Boone, at which place a permanent organization was effected with Henry Haag of Jefferson, president; W. C. Rollins, of Denison, secretary, and W. F. Coan of Clinton, treasurer. Upon the death of President Haag, F. W. Meyers of Denison was appointed as a member of the executive committee. A second meeting was held in Marshalltown in July, 1911, and the permanency of the organization seems assured. Mr. W. C. Rollins was re-elected secretary. Through the efforts of this association considerable sums have been spent on this highway and it is now recognized as the best tourist line across the state.

In June, Vail was again flooded just before the opening of its carnival season. In Denison the dullness of the summer season was brightened by a Fourth of July celebration, by the coming of the Hagenbeck circus which was encouraged to come by the business men, by the Chautauqua week, by the old settlers' picnic, and the annual celebration of German Day. In August, Theodore Roosevelt made his second visit to Denison, talking briefly to the thousands who gathered at the Northwestern station to greet him.

The sensation of the year was the arrest of C. E. Booth, former cashier of the Green bank, upon his return for a visit at his old home in Dow City. Upon learning of this arrest Mr. Green came and gave himself up to the authorities. Both were released under bond.

In our business world the Misses Sarachon sold their thriving millinery business to Mrs. A. V. Stepp, The Bulletin moved into its handsome new brick quarters. The Review installed a linotype.

In October the community was greatly grieved to learn that Mr. Chas. Tabor was about to sell his loan business and leave Denison to devote his future time

to travel and recreation. Mr. Tabor sold his business to the Crawford County State Bank. The banquet tendered him by the business men of the city shortly before his departure for California was one of the memorable events of the year and a fitting tribute to his many years of helpful and generous citizenship.

Other important business changes at the close of 1910 were the retirement of Mr. W. J. Scriver from the management of the Stewart Lumber Company, with which he had been connected for many years, and the sale of the Demokrat, by its founder, Mr. Frank Faul, to the new firm of Finnern and Vosgerau, while the robbery of the Bank of Dow City furnished a great sensation.

1911.

The events of the year 1911 are too much in the nature of current events to be discussed at any length and they are briefly mentioned simply in order to bring this year book of Denison and the county down to date.

January and February witnessed an unusual harvest of death. The most prominent pioneer lost to the county was Mr. Morris McHenry. After his death Mr. Herbert Fishel was appointed county surveyor and to him has fallen the work of supervising the completion of the drainage ditch.

Uncle John Dobson, now one of the oldest pioneers, met with a severe loss when his hotel at Deloit was burned on January 8th.

The Denison Commercial Club elected Mr. C. L. Voss president, and Mr. W. C. Rollins, secretary. During February and March, Denison suffered an epidemic of scarlet fever during which a number of little lives were lost. The schools were closed and all public assemblies forbidden and by these strict measures the disease was soon stamped out.

In March the supervisors let the contract for the building of the new county home on its stately site about two miles east of Arion. Wiley Bros., of Chicago, were the contractors, and Kadoch & Buckley of Denison secured the plumbing contract, and the building is now nearing completion. The question of paving, which has been previously mentioned, occupied the attention of Denison people very largely as did a second futile attempt to secure the location of a state normal. The most important business growth was the capitalization of the Nicholson Produce Company for \$100,000.00 and the addition of a creamery and of an ice cream factory to its other lines. Mr. Martin Saggau also began the erection of a fine two story brick block which completes a solid line of handsome brick buildings on south Broadway. This will be used as a garage by the Denison Auto Company. On July 15th, the Postal Savings Bank was inaugurated although, up to this time, it has but few depositors. The Chautauqua enjoyed another successful season, the chief attraction being Hon. William Jennings Bryan. In June the residence of Mr. E. T. McAndrews was destroyed by fire and on July 20th a new hotel and restaurant recently opened by Mrs. S. Dawes was totally consumed, and a young man named Wilson lost his life in the flames. This tragedy called renewed attention to the inadequacy of Denison's fire alarm system. The most recent events are the proposed building of a natatorium in connection with the Nicholson plant, the building of a handsome and substantial cement bridge

across the Boyer in the southwest part of the city and a proposed extension of the sewer system.

During the year Crawford suffered from extreme drouth as did all the west. It was not so severe as in 1894 but the small grain yielded but a scant crop, the pastures were brown and but for a few timely rains in the latter part of the season the corn crop would have been very short. In comparison with other counties the splendid soil of Crawford withstood the dry season very well and the higher prices indicate a prosperous season for the farmers and thus for all.

It would be gratuitous to give a picture of Denison as it is to-day. It is chiefly admired for its park-like appearance with shady streets lined with beautiful residences, for its excellent school system and for its substantial business houses. In volume of business it is the most important point on the line of the Northwestern railway between Boone and Council Bluffs. It is the financial center of a large territory. It has a magnificent hotel, good church edifices and the courthouse, in its commanding location, is justly the pride of the county. Prophecy is unsafe and has no place in history, but we can at least dwell with deep satisfaction upon the past, upon the great men the city has given to the state and nation and to the many of like calibre which it contains, upon the material advancement it has made in the first years of the new century, upon the ambition and energy which pervade it to-day and upon the fact that its future is in good hands,

"And I know that it shall not die."

CHAPTER XXII.

DENISON ORGANIZATIONS.

THE MASONIC ORDER.

Even before the coming of the railroad, the influence of that world-wide fraternity of Free Masons, which has written so many pages of the history of mankind, was felt in Crawford county. The membership was too small and too widely scattered, however, for the establishment of a local lodge and the faithful Masons made their pilgrimages to Dunlap, where the first lodge in this section was established. As early as 1870, however, the Masons of Denison felt the desire for a lodge of their own, and a petition signed by W. A. Porter, Cary Mathews, L. Cornwell, Wm. Wallace, B. F. Darling, Alexander Twinkle, B. Shinn, H. C. Laub, Wm. Crisp and C. H. De Wolf, was presented to the Grand Lodge. The Denison lodge was recommended by Hospitable Lodge, No. 244, of Dunlap, and dispensation was granted March 1, 1870, to B. Shinn, Worshipful Master; C. H. De Wolf, Senior Warden; Cary Mathews, Junior Warden. This dispensation was signed by John Scott, Grand Master, and T. S. Parvin, Grand Secretary. Additional officers under this dispensation were: L. Cornwell, Treasurer; H. C. Laub, Secretary; B. F. Darling, S. D.; A. Trinkle, J. D.; Wm. Crisp, Tyler. The charter was granted June 7, 1871, to Devotion Lodge, No. 282, and the following is the chronological list of those who headed the lodge from 1871 to 1886, when on February 17, the charter was surrendered: C. H. DeWolf, L. Cornwell, B. F. Darling, J. S. Nicholson, L. Cornwell, C. H. DeWolf, G. W. Stephens, C. H. DeWolf.

From 1886 to February, 1890, Denison was without a Masonic lodge, but in that year a dispensation was granted by James A. Gamble, Grand Master, upon the petition of H. C. Laub, George S. DeWolf, T. J. Garrison, Ben Spear, C. H. DeWolf, Philip A. Schlumberger, N. Lafrentz, Charles Bullock, M. E. Jones, E. T. Cochran, A. D. Wilkinson, J. L. Richardson, M. Goldheim, Joseph Brogden, Charles Tabor, George A. Richardson, Bradley H. Lee, J. P. Miller, W. J. Cochran, W. J. Scriver, W. R. Barber, George W. Stephens, Martin Vandusen, W. H. Marshall and Henry Noble.

"Sylvan" was the name of the new lodge, and the first officers were: Geo. A. Richardson, W. M.; W. J. Scriver, S. W.; E. T. Cochran, J. W.; they being empowered to act until May 1, 1890. Transcript of the work done

being satisfactory, the Grand Lodge on the fourth day of June, 1890, issued a charter to Sylvan Lodge, No. 507.

In the intervening years this lodge has grown from a membership of twenty-five to a net membership of one hundred and fourteen. During these years it has been a quiet but powerful influence in the community. It now has spacious and finely furnished quarters in the McKim hall, which it has leased for a period of twenty-five years. Since its organization Sylvan Lodge has lost thirteen members by death, the deceased members being George A. Richardson, H. C. Laub, N. Lafrentz, M. Goldheim, Joseph Brogden, J. P. Miller, W. H. Marshall, Henry Noble, Frank J. Young, C. M. Staley, Ed. J. Deal, J. B. Romans and I. E. Scobee.

HISTORY OF SYLVAN CHAPTER, O. E. S.

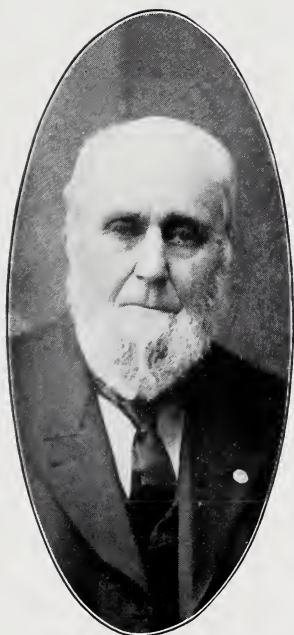
By Mrs. Grace B. Sprecher.

The Eastern Star is a great lighthouse built upon the rock of Freemasonry. The great light they have in charge shines forth across the troubled waters of life. Our lamps are trimmed and burning, filled with the magic oil of loving kindness. The storms may come and beat upon the house, but still the light sends out its radiant beams to guide the wanderer to the New Jerusalem.

On October 28, 1897, the Grand Chapter, O. E. S., of Iowa, issued a charter to Sylvan Chapter, No. 207, of Denison, Iowa. The following names were written upon it as the organizers of the Chapter: Lillian Oswald, C. E. Wood, Ada L. Glenn, Mary L. Romans, Lydia R. Bradley, Martha J.ushman, Sallie Sime, Esther Sime, Mrs. H. H. Osborne, A. Oswald, Lucy Jones, Anna A. Schlumberger, J. F. Glenn, Margaret M. Wood, Kate Gebert, M. E. Jones, Max Sime. The chapter was constituted with Mrs. Oswald as W. M., and C. E. Wood, W. P. First Tuesday after full moon was selected as their regular meeting night. It was a hard struggle the first few years to keep the Chapter together on account of members moving away, but the faithful few put their hearts and souls into the work and have been rewarded by seeing it grow in numbers until in 1910 it can boast a membership of 160.

We pause a few moments to pay our respects to our departed dead for the death angel has entered our circle of friendship and removed some links from the golden chain. The deceased are: Mrs. Mary L. Romans, Mrs. Graves, Mrs. Fanny L. Bond, Miss Frances Hart, D. G. Howorth and J. B. Romans.

Thrice has Sylvan Chapter received recognition from the Grand Chapter of Iowa. In 1903 Mrs. Emma Richardson was appointed chairman of committee on unfinished business, and in 1904 she was appointed to serve on the committee on jurisprudence. In 1907 Mrs. Ida M. Philbrook was appointed Grand Marshall, and in 1910 Mrs. Grace B. Sprecher was appointed Deputy Grand Matron for the seventh district.



REV. B. SHINN

List of officers for 1910: W. M., Mrs. Amanda C. Sibbert; W. P., W. E. Terry; A. M., Mrs. Bertha M. Kott; Secretary, Mrs. Grace B. Sprecher; Treasurer, Mrs. Elizabeth Crippen; Conductress, Mrs. Mary Bollen; Assistant Conductress, Mrs. Lillian Kemp; Adah, Miss Nellie Cushman; Ruth, Mrs. Emma Boylan; Esther, Mrs. Flora Wright; Martha, Mrs. Minnie Ferguson; Electa, Mrs. Jessie Pfarr; Chaplain, Mrs. Ida Van Ness; Marshall, Mrs. Frances Terry; Warder, Mrs. Jennie Armstrong; Organist, Mrs. Pearl Bleakney; Sentinel, B. J. Sibbert.

If in our daily lives, our acts and our works have been in unison with our sacred obligation, then have we benefited mankind, and we may truly say, "We have seen His Star in the East."

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

By Mrs. Helen McHenry Cassaday.

The Denison Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution was organized July 5, 1904, with twenty charter members, which made us the banner chapter in the state, as no other chapter organized with so large a number of charter members.

Its organization was effected by Mrs. Alcinda Snodgrass Robinson, a member of the De Shon Chapter, Boone, Iowa. She was appointed regent for the Denison chapter by the state regent of Iowa, and approved by the national board. The names of the charter members are as follows: Mrs. Mary Kuhn Young, Mrs. Maria Kuhn Burch, Mrs. Alice Hoffman Boyle, Mrs. Alcinda Snodgrass Robinson, Miss Elva Dell Bond, Miss Lois Jane Day, Miss Agnes King, Mrs. Margaret King Kincaid, Miss Lessie M. Marshall, Miss Ethel T. Miller, Mrs. Helen McHenry Cassaday, Mrs. Minnie Mudgett Ferguson, Mrs. Cynthia Gulick Jones, Mrs. Angeline Sayre Johnson, Mrs. Edna Goodspeed Laub, Mrs. Anna Burns Murphy, Mrs. Carrie Jones Patterson, Mrs. Hattie Stone Tucker, Mrs. Sarah Gulick Wagner, Mrs. Flora Sherwood Wright.

Our charter was formally presented to the chapter on November 12, 1904, by Mrs. Maria Purdy Peck in person. Mrs. Peck was a great help to us in getting our chapter in good working order. At this meeting a gavel was presented to the chapter by Mrs. Burch and Mrs. Young. It was made from wood taken from a rafter of the house of their ancestors. The house was built in 1745 and still stands on the old site in the city of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In this home George Washington was an honored guest, and from it six sons went out to fight in the war for independence.

At this meeting we had with us as an interested spectator the national president of the Woman's Relief Corps. Each year our chapter observes February 22d as "guest night." Flag Day, June 14th, is celebrated by our annual picnic. Early in its history the chapter purchased a large American flag and it was unfurled with impressive ceremonies on Flag Day, 1906. We have also bought an excellent portrait of George Washington, which hangs upon the wall of our chapter room. We have also been favored with the gift of two steel engravings elegantly framed of "Washington Bidding Farewell to His Officers" and "The

Declaration of Independence," the first presented by Mr. and Mrs. L. Cornwell, the latter by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jones, and both were gladly accorded a place with our other belongings.

No members of our chapter have died; our membership increases steadily; we meet socially once a month at the homes of our members; we have contributed liberally toward the erection of Continental Hall, Washington, D. C., and have presented a mahogany chair for the Iowa room.

UTE TRIBE NO. 92, IMPROVED ORDER OF RED MEN.

By T. A. Harvey, Chief of Records.

Ute Tribe, No. 92, Improved Order of Red Men, of Denison, Iowa, was organized by Past Sachem, Brother H. F. Hodges, on the sixteenth sleep of flower moon, G. S. D. 407 (May 16, 1898). The present officers of the tribe are: John D. O'Hara, Sachem; Alex Aebischer, Senior Sagamore; Ralph P. Beaman, Junior Sagamore; W. A. Cramer, Prophet; T. A. Harvey, Chief of Records; John G. Hugg, Collector of Wampum; C. P. Lorenzen, Keeper of Wampum; H. W. Faul, Sr., T. A. Harvey, W. E. Kahler, trustees.

The Tribe meets in council every Wednesday's sleep in the Saggau Hall.

The Tribe is in a very prosperous condition with a membership of over 160 of the very best men in the community.

In all of the Tribe's years of existence the Great Spirit has seen fit to call to his happy hunting grounds only one brother, Past Sachem A. J. Larson, whose remains were laid at rest in Oakland cemetery, and his grave marked by the official grave marker of the order, while his picture adorns the walls of the council chamber.

Since the organization of the Tribe twelve great suns ago, it has been extremely well honored by the Great Council of Iowa, and the Great Council of the United States.

Past Sachem, Brother H. F. Hodges, was at one time Great Representative to the Great Council of the United States.

Past Sachem, Brother Carl F. Kuehnle, is at present the Great Junior Sagamore of the Great Reservation of Iowa.

Past Sachem, Brother W. E. Kahler, is the present Journal Clerk of the Great Council.

Past Great Sachem, Brother O. W. Wheeler, was elected to the chieftaincy of Great Sachem in traveling moon G. S. D. 415 (October, 1906), and when he surrendered the tomahawk of his chieftaincy to his successor, he was elected as Great Representative to the Great Council of the United States, which position he still holds.

The wonderful progress and popularity of the Improved Order of Red Men have earned for it the prominent position it occupies among the great social fraternities of our land, and is purely a fraternal organization with the motto of

"FREEDOM, FRIENDSHIP AND CHARITY."

What a sublime triune of sacred virtues. Patriotism, honesty, sobriety and integrity—what a brilliant quartet of noble qualities. These virtues are the cornerstones of the order, and upon them the structure is reared.

CHAPTER CO, P. E. O.

By Agnes King, Corresponding Secretary.

Chapter CO, P. E. O., of Denison, Iowa, was organized October 27, 1902.

The national sisterhood of P. E. O., the largest society of women, independent of any men's organization in the world, and whose primary object is the moral, intellectual and social growth of womanhood, was originated by seven girl students at the Iowa Wesleyan College at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, in 1869. Mrs. Emily A. Barber, now of Charter Oak, Iowa, started the movement which resulted in the organization of Chapter CO, Iowa, at her home in Denison, by Mrs. Huldah Reed, of What Cheer, Iowa, then state organizer.

The charter members were Mesdames Emily A. Barber, Hattie C. Boynton, Anna C. Naeve, Ida M. Philbrook, Jessie S. Pfarr, Ola D. Kemming and Misses Minna Balle, Margaret and Agnes King.

Up to the time of this writing, in January, 1911, there have been forty-one members, only twenty-nine of whom are now resident members here, however.

This chapter has undertaken simply to work, principally within itself, for the chief aims of P. E. O., and for helping by contributions yearly toward the national P. E. O. fund, used to help any worthy student unable otherwise to get a desired higher education. Its meetings are held every two weeks on Friday afternoon at the clubroom of the library building, or at the home of members.

The officers at present are: President, Mrs. Ida M. Philbrook; vice-president, Mrs. Hattie C. Boynton; recording secretary, Mrs. Emma Morgan; corresponding secretary, Miss Agnes King; treasurer, Mrs. Florence M. Wright; chaplain, Mrs. Mable H. Gillmor; guard, Miss Marie E. Naeve; journalist, Mrs. Lillian W. Kemp; and pianist, Mrs. Gertrude G. Voss.

SIDONIA LODGE, NO. 393, I. O. O. F.

The above is the name of the German Odd Fellows' Lodge of Denison, which was founded August 17, 1895, with twelve charter members. The present membership is forty-five. The meetings are held each Friday night and the business of the order and the ritual are conducted in the German language also. The lodge is in especially fine financial condition and is prosperous in every way. This lodge boasts of fine regalia, freedom from debt and a full treasury. The charter members were J. F. Harthun, Asmus Clausen, Peter Krauth, Fred Clausen, F. O. Ivens, Fred Kadoth, John Fastje, Jurgen Clausen, Ernst Riepen, Henry Rogge, Frank Faul, C. F. Christiansen and John F. Reeh, the first officers being: J. F. Harthun, N. G.; Asmus Clausen, V. G.; Peter Krauth, Secretary; and Fred Clausen, Treasurer. The lodge has lost the following members by death: Henry Stang, Gust Witt, Fritz Bugge, Claus Mündt, Rudolph Kolls. Gust Huettmann and Claus Grill.

The present officers are: Christ Otto, N. G.; Gust Retman, V. G.; Frank Faul, P. Secretary; E. O. Thiem, Financial Secretary; and Hans Jess, Treasurer.

REBEKAH LODGE, NO. 420, I. O. O. F.

By the Secretary.

Rebekah Lodge, No. 420, I. O. O. F., of Denison, Iowa, was organized October 20, 1898, with eleven charter members, and on the same evening an equal number from lodges in different parts of the state were taken in, making a membership of twenty-two to start with.

The years that have passed since the lodge was organized have brought plenty of fraternal work and pleasure, as well as the trials common to all organizations. On the whole, it has been a prosperous lodge, as while some members have moved away and others have dropped out, still new members have been added from time to time and at almost every meeting new candidates are proposed. At present the lodge has a membership of sixty-five, and it is in a flourishing condition generally.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

Denison Lodge, No. 626, I. O. O. F., was organized October 23, 1896, with eleven charter members: J. L. McKnight, P. G.; S. E. Allen; William Marr, P. G.; Max Sime; W. W. Cushman; W. E. Terry; C. M. Staley, P. G.; N. E. Lafferty; T. D. Miller; E. R. Barber, P. G.; and W. H. Scaggs. The lodge has had a healthy growth since the date of organization and now has a membership of sixty-five.

The present officers are H. F. Bolton, Noble Grand; T. V. Walker, Vice Grand; H. T. Bliesman, Recording Secretary; William Andersen, Treasurer; Robert Ewall, Financial Secretary; Elmer E. Ransom, Warden; James Mitchell, Conductor; John Baker, I. G.; S. P. Jacobsen, O. G.; George Selander, R. S. to N. G.; O. G. Savery, L. S. to N. G.; George Richardson, R. S. to V. G.; W. E. Terry, L. S. to V. G.; and William Strahn, Chaplain.

BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICAN YEOMEN.

The meetings of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen Lodge are held in the first and third Tuesday of each month in the New Saggau Hall, the organization now numbering sixty members. Its present officers are, L. V. Wright, Foreman; Alvena Dannles, Master of Ceremonies; H. T. Bliesman, Correspondent; W. V. Huffman, Master of Accounts; Idah B. Dannles, Chaplain; Pearl Wright, Overseer; William Dannles, Watchman; and John H. Carlson, Sentinel.

The lodge was organized in Denison on November 6, 1901, with the following charter members: William Wiggins, J. V. Jackson, A. F. Durkee, H. S. Hanson, J. Schwanzenbach, William Dannles, Alvena Dannles, William Donegan, Emma D. Donegan, Anna Quade, Maggie Quade, Theo Lanzer, D. Rodenbaugh, Frantz Hefner, C. H. Rolls, Kate Sperry, H. Dethman, C. H. Johnson, John T. Smith, N. C. Thompson, May E. Thompson, William G. Norris, C. Q. Goff, William Bowen, H. F. Parsons, Nettie E. Parsons, and John N. Woodland.

THE GERMAN MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

One of the most beneficent organizations of the county and one which has done a great deal to promote the prosperity of the farmers is the Mutual Fire, Lightning, Tornado and Wind Storm Insurance Association of German Farmers of Crawford and Ida counties.

This company was organized December 29, 1879, at the home of C. J. Holling, of Otter Creek township. The charter members were, C. J. Holling, Herm Heicksen, Peter Dreessen, Claus Mundt, Henry Mundt, John Peper, Julius Buhmann, H. Hennings, C. Jensen, J. Bendixen, G. Else, H. Lehfeldt, Sr., H. Lehfeldt, Jr., C. Hensen, Rud Lehfeldt, J. C. Petersen, Hans Brodersen, Thomas Hamann, Jack Sachau, H. Dethmann, William Carstens, the first officers being C. J. Holling, President; Herm Heicksen, Secretary; Hans Brodersen, Assistant Secretary; Claus Mundt, Vice President; C. Hensen, Treasurer; C. Jensen, H. H. Dethmann and Rud Lehfeldt, trustees; and P. Dreessen, J. Bendixen and J. C. Petersen, adjusters.

The first loss paid by the association was fifty dollars paid to Christ and Fritz Putzier, July 5, 1880. The growth of the society is shown by the following table:

June 1, 1885,	Number members,	389,	Risks in force,	\$ 450,903.00
May 31, 1890,	Number members,	823,	Risks in force,	1,114,085.00
May 25, 1895,	Number members,	1,188,	Risks in force,	1,953,994.00
May 26, 1900,	Number members,	1,371,	Risks in force,	2,698,249.00
May 27, 1905,	Number members,	1,550,	Risks in force,	3,773,299.00
May 28, 1910,	Number members,	1,650,	Risks in force,	6,060,573.00
Dec. 31, 1910,	Number members,		Risks in force,	6,228,425.00

The total amount of loses paid from 1879 to December 31, 1910, was \$63,551.40. C. J. Holling served as president until 1884, Nic Lafrentz until 1886, Hans Wellendorf until 1887, and August Schultz until the present date. The vice presidents have been Claus Mundt, August Wittenberg, Peter Dreessen, H. Wellendorf, John Jepsen, Hans Lohse, Fred Jepsen and Julius Schroeder. The secretaries were Herman Heicksen up to 1883; Henry Schwartz to 1886; H. C. Schroeder, 1886; Fred Jepsen to 1892; A. B. Lorenzen to January, 1894; A. J. Boock until May, 1894; Peter Dreessen until May, 1898; John Fischer, until 1904; Carl Wendt to 1906; and John F. Holst until the present date. The treasurers have been Carl Hensen until 1889; H. C. Schroeder until 1893; Gust Rabe until 1903; Claus Grill until 1906; and Fred Jepsen to date. The trustees at present are Herman Schultz, J. C. Petersen, and Fred Indorf; and the adjusters are Henry Bremer, Henry W. Rohlk, V. S. Johannsen, P. H. Paulsen, Adolph Eggert, Johanns Preuss, Martin Nehls and Matthew Arnold.

BEN NEVIS CASTLE, THE ROYAL HIGHLANDERS.

The Royal Highlanders' Order at Denison was organized July 26, 1898, in Knights of Pythias Hall, by their organizer, Mrs. J. R. Coreathers, with the following charter members: Eugene Gulick, W. T. Wright, W. J. McAhren, R. E. Grason, W. P. Hover, L. J. Ingraham, D. L. Boynton, Clay McMinimee, U.

G. Swartz, A. H. Brown, N. W. Nash, E. Mill, and M. H. Hill, the following officers being elected: W. T. Wright, Illustrious Protector; D. L. Boynton, Past Illustrious Protector; R. E. Grason, Chief Counsellor; A. H. Brown, Worthy Evangel; N. W. Nash, Secretary; E. Gulick, Treasurer; Clay McMinimie, Valiant Guide; W. P. Hover, First Worthy Counsellor; L. J. Ingraham, Second Worthy Counsellor; W. J. McAhren, Chief Spearman; E. Mill, Chief of Arches; M. Mill, First Prudential Chief, and W. T. Wright, Physical Examiner.

DENISON LODGE NO. 80, F. B. R. S.

Denison Lodge, No. 80, Fraternal Bankers Reserve Society, is a branch of the main lodge which is located at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The Denison lodge was organized on May 13, 1903, by J. W. Roe, president of the Supreme Lodge, at which time R. W. Plimpton was elected president of the local organization and E. Gulick was elected as secretary, banker and local deputy. Following is a list of the charter members: E. Gulick, William Marshall, R. W. Plimpton, Otto Dresselhouser, George A. Richardson, Helen N. Pester, J. R. Johnston, Joseph B. Merwin, Bertha J. Mill, Elmer Mill, Carl Gronau, F. W. Mueller, Mary J. Harding, M. A. Harding, I. O. Orem, T. J. Carey, T. W. Garber, W. T. Wright, A. D. Wright, E. W. Johnson, W. J. Scott, C. M. Morris, Susie M. Scott, J. E. Girard, James McCarthy, Christian Vohs, Charles C. Speck, Carl C. Lorentzen, E. E. Walker and E. T. Cochran.

DOWDALL LODGE NO. 90, KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

This is the largest strictly fraternal organization in Denison. Its charter dates from October 26, 1882. It is also one of the wealthiest of our fraternities and has been perhaps the most active in assisting worthy but unfortunate brothers. The charter members of the lodge were W. J. McAhren, Charles Bullock, N. J. Wheeler, C. W. Van Coelln, J. D. Jones, D. L. Boynton, R. E. Sackett, D. O. Johnson, A. D. Wilson, B. F. Strohm, S. J. Garrison, F. M. Penny, L. K. Bensley, William Iseminger, and J. P. Conner, the first officers being, W. J. McAhren, Past Chancellor; Charles Bullock, Chancellor Commander; N. J. Wheeler, Vice Chancellor; C. W. Van Coelln, Prelate; D. L. Boynton, Master of Exchequer; R. E. Sackett, Master of Finance; D. O. Johnson, Keeper of Records and Seal; A. D. Wilson, Master at Arms; J. D. Jones, Inner Guard; and L. K. Bensley, Outer Guard, while William Iseminger, T. J. Garrison and B. F. Strohm were trustees.

The lodge has from time to time received gratifying honors from the state and national lodges and Mr. Carl F. Kuehnle served a term as grand chancellor of Iowa, presiding over the convention at Le Mars, in August, 1894. Mr. Kuehnle also served as representative in the Supreme Lodge for twelve years. This lodge faithfully performs its duty, not only to living members but to those departed. Its annual banquets have for many years been prominent features of Denison's social life. The list of its members who have died is as follows: P. N. Luse, October 19, 1885; L. R. Marshall, January 28, 1888; C. B. Ramsey, September 15, 1892; Alden McArthur, July 9, 1894; J. H. Schoonover, Decem-

ber 19, 1895; T. S. Luney, January 29, 1896; H. W. C. Wilroth, August 30, 1896; S. D. Cone, February 29, 1898; W. M. Cornwall, April 5, 1898; O. C. McAhren, October 11, 1901; A. A. Runkle, February 13, 1902; A. D. James, June 10, 1902; Andrew Stewart, December 11, 1902; F. J. Young, March 9, 1906; I. E. Scobe, August 23, 1907; Joseph Hird, May 16, 1908; Samuel Luney, September 22, 1909; L. A. Sewall; and J. B. Romans, December 7, 1910.

The official roster for the present year includes the following; John Kott, Chancellor Commander; W. E. Kahler, Vice Commander; W. E. Terry, Pre-late; A. C. Green, Master of Work; E. F. Zucker, Keeper of Records and Seal; John E. Shaw Van, Master of Finance; J. B. Lyon, Master of Exchequer; Hugo Gebart, Master at Arms; P. J. Klinker, Inner Guard; P. I. Christensen, Outer Guard; and A. C. Green, W. W. Ferguson, and D. L. Boynton, Trustees.

THE WOODMEN OF THE WORLD

The Woodmen of the World held their first meeting on Thursday evening, October 16, 1895, when the following were elected as charter members of Hawk-eye Camp, No. 76: W. A. Ackley, C. H. Bolles, Henry A. Cook, Art Folsom, E. Gulick, T. W. Garber, Hugo Gebert, W. W. Holmes, M. A. Harding, M. E. Jones, C. C. Kemming, W. R. Kirkup, Henry Kelly, M. E. Leise, O. C. McAhren, M. M. McAlpin, Frank O'Dell, A. Oswald, W. C. Rollins, E. H. Swasey, Gustave T. Slegemann, Henry Stuck, E. T. Stokes, George A. Smith, Christian Otto, Hans Thiesen, W. C. Van Ness, H. W. C. Wilroth and J. J. Wieland. The following officers were elected: W. C. Van Ness, Council Commander; H. A. Cook, Advisory Lieutenant; George A. Smith, Clerk; M. E. Jones, Banker; O. C. McAhren, Escort; Henry Kelly, Watchman; T. W. Garber, Sentry; W. W. Holmes and Arte Folsom, Camp Physicians; M. M. McAlpin, H. A. Cook and Frand Odell, Managers; and H. A. Cook, Henry Kelly and M. E. Leise were appointed a committee on by-laws.

The following members have died: Andrew Stewart, William ———, E. F. Sperry, H. W. C. Willroth, G. W. Garrett, C. R. Dixon, Dr. C. H. Balles, H. L. Graham and O. C. McAhren.

The officers for 1911 are John Sillitor, Sr., Council Commander; F. M. Gibson, Adv. Lieutenant; John A. Sillito, Banker; John Rollins, Clerk; Ben Haffard, Watchman; W. L. Hill, Sentry; R. P. Plimpton, Physician; and B. H. Foderberg, M. A. Harding and W. C. Van Ness, Managers.

The Woodmen of the World are in flourishing condition and have the largest membership of any lodge in the city. Their meetings are well attended and the interest in the lodge has been well sustained ever since its origin.

THE GERMANIA VEREIN.

The Germania Verein is the name of a society founded April 1, 1881, for the purpose of unifying the German speaking people and providing a suitable place of meeting. The first meetings for organization purposes were held at the courthouse in the spring of 1881. Funds were raised by stock subscriptions, and a public hall which for several years has served Denison as its chief place

of amusement, was erected at a cost of seven thousand dollars. Peter Dresser was the architect and Mr. Charles Evers the contractor.

The Verein was for many years the leading German organization of the county. It maintained a school for the benefit of the German children and for teaching the German language. It was to teach this school that Professor J. F. Harthun, now editor of the *Zeitung*, first came to Denison. The society made various improvements in the opera house from time to time and finally had it established on a good paying basis. When the citizens of Denison organized for the purpose of building a hotel, a hospital and an opera house the Germania Verein deeded its property to the Denison Improvement Association, taking stock in the association as payment. The proviso was made, however, that the Verein should have control of the property until such time as work on a new opera house in its place should be commenced. As the opera house project has been allowed to languish the Germania Verein remains in possession of the premises. The ground upon which the building stands was later sold to the United States for the purpose of the erection of a postoffice building. This building has also been delayed and it is probable that the opera house will remain at its present location for some years. While the need of better facilities for public gatherings at this time is very apparent, still at the time of its erection the Germania Halle was a great accession to the town and it has served its purpose well. The present officers of the Verein are, Frank Faul, President; Hugo Gebert, Vice President; Peter Krauth, Secretary; Louis Evers, Treasurer; Dr. F. Mueller, B. Brodersen and Christ Otto, Trustees; and B. J. Sibbert, Manager.

THE MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA.

Denison Camp, Modern Woodmen of America, No. 315, was organized in 1887, with a membership of 20. R. Hefflefinger was the presiding officer, C. F. Cassady, Clerk and Scott Wilson, Banker. The camp boasts that it is the oldest society of its kind in Denison, and it has done very much for the welfare of its members, both the living and the dead. The present membership is seventy-six, and its officers now are: Wm. Dannells, C.; F. H. Bolton, A. D. V.; A. Schwartz-enbaugh, Banker; A. G. Myers, Clerk; F. C. Marshall, Escort; Dr. W. T. Wright, Physician; E. T. Cochran, A. L. Rogers and F. C. Marshall, Managers.

THE MYSTIC WORKERS OF THE WORLD.

Anabel Lodge, number 856, Mystic Workers of the World, was organized at Denison on April 10, 1908, by state deputy E. E. Farley. This organization is primarily one for mutual insurance and has its headquarters at Fulton, Illinois. The first officers were as follows: Prefect, C. H. Johnson; Monitor, H. M. Godberson; Secretary, A. R. Hill; Banker, Mrs. Emma S. Meyers; Physicians, Dr. P. J. Brannon and Dr. C. W. Carr, Marshal, John McGrath, J. R. Matlock; Sentinel, Miss Ida Servoss; Supervisors, Herbert Allard, Dr. P. J. Brannon and C. H. Johnson. On January 25, 1909, Mr. Fred Conery was elected Prefect and on his resignation April 12, 1909, Mr. Chas. K. Meyers was elected

to that office, and was such at the time of the writing of this history. The lodge secretaries succeeding Mr. Hill were Mr. John H. Cook and Mr. John Rusterholz. On the resignation of Mr. Rusterholz in September, 1910, his duties were assumed by the Prefect, Mr. Meyers. As the primary object of the organization at Denison was to secure, for the membership, life insurance and certain accident benefits, rather than the formation of a new social order, no attempts were made to have regular stated meetings. All meetings have been held in the Review hall. The membership on July 1, 1911, was thirty-five, all in good standing.

THE GERMAN BROTHERHOOD.

One of the potent factors in Denison life is the German Brotherhood. This was founded April 17, 1886, by a number of our prominent German citizens who had served in the army of the Fatherland. The object of this organization was to promote friendly intercourse among the members and to perpetuate German ideas and the German tongue. The first president was Mr. Theodore N. Petersen. The organization continued for a number of years as a military brotherhood but later the name was changed as given above and the society was made to include all citizens of German descent. The society now numbers about 150 members. Benefits are paid to the families and the society is in splendid financial condition. In 1900 three lots were purchased and in 1903 a hall costing \$2,000 was erected. In 1906 a park of 4½ acres was purchased and these properties are all owned by the society without indebtedness. The present officers are President, J. F. Harthun, who has held the office for seventeen years; Vice President, John Pump; Secretary, C. H. Wendt; Treasurer, F. Faul.

THE GERMAN LANDWEHRVEREIN.

The German Landwehrverein was organized July 12, 1908, and is an organization of German Veterans who have served in the German army and received honorable discharge therefrom. The society is affiliated with the Westliche Kriegerbund, an association of twenty-six lodges, in Iowa, Nebraska and neighboring states. The objects of the society are much the same as those of the German Brotherhood. The membership is 110. The society is particularly proud of its handsome flag which is of hand embroidered silk and which was imported from Germany at an expense of more than \$150.00. It is said to be the finest flag in the northwest. The officers of this society are, J. F. Harthun, President; Henry Otto, Vice President; John Holst, Secretary; John Pump, Treasurer; and Herman Koenekamp, Flag Bearer.

CLUB LIFE—WOMEN'S CLUBS.

If the history of the social and literary life of Denison did not take an account of the clubs, it would indeed be incomplete, for these two phases of life are largely carried on by the means of clubs. The pioneer club of Denison is the Friday club, founded after the World's Fair in Chicago, which in so many ways gave an impulse toward culture to the people of the west. The first meeting of

the Friday club for organization was held with Mrs. Sears McHenry and the constitution and form of organization were adopted, which, although the club soon outgrew them, served for a beginning. The first regular meeting was held with Mrs. Van Ness. As it was shortly after the death of Oliver Wendell Holmes, the program was devoted to him. Miss Grace Meyers wrote the first paper, a sketch of Holmes. The next year, the first annual banquet was held at the home of Mrs. C. F. Kuehnle, with Miss Meyers as toastmistress. The banquets of the club have always ranked as the most brilliant social events of Denison and the members declare that no expense or trouble is too great. The programs of the club have been varied, but for the last three years they have been making a very thorough study of Shakespeare, under the leadership of Mrs. Harry Carpenter. The first president of the Friday club was Miss Meyers. The coming year will find the club under the presidency of Miss Brodersen. The Friday club cook book is a distinctive feature of this club's outside work. Three cook books have been published and have always had a large sale.

The next literary club to be formed was the Womans' Club, the first meeting being held February 3, 1902, at the home of Mrs. W. H. Laub, who was elected president. Mrs. Holmes was the first Recording Secretary, Mrs. R. A. Romans, Vice President, Mrs. Gulick, Treasurer, Mrs. Garrison, Critic. In the beginning the club read Stoddard's Lectures, but as they gained in confidence they began doing original work and no club does better or more thorough study. A travel program will be carried out for the coming year of 1911-12. Miss Lessie Marshall is president of the club. The Woman's Club banquet is a feature of the social calendar for the month of February. Mrs. L. M. Shaw is an honorary member of the club and has been since the beginning.

In October, 1904, the Shakespeare reading club was formed at the home of Mrs. E. T. Cochran, and she was the first president of the club. Mesdames Cochran, Hope, and Seeley were the originators of the club which at first numbered but six members. It has now been increased to eighteen. The club meets in the evening and the members have had a very successful study of Shakespeare, giving, from time to time, very novel entertainments to their friends. Mrs. Armstrong is the present president. In 1907 the Current Event club was formed, the first meeting being held with Miss Meyers. The object of the club has been as its name implies, a study of current events and a desire to be posted as to the present trend of the world's affairs. It has also had much to do with the civic improvement of Denison and has interested itself in many reforms. One of the distinctive features of the club is its annual Christmas tree, held in the club room for children whose Christmas otherwise might be meager. It is one of the most beautiful movements ever undertaken by a club and has given pleasure untold to many children. Mrs. E. W. Fellows was the first and most brilliant president of the Current Event club. Mrs. Barber will be the president for the coming year, 1911-12. A drinking fountain has been installed by the Current Event club and by them presented to the city.

In social clubs Penelope was the first to be formed and it has had an unbroken record of pleasure and social good times. Mrs. U. G. Johnson, now of Redfield, So. Dak., and Miss Grace Meyers were promoters of this club, the membership being limited to the fancy work class. Penelope was started in

1898, the first meeting being held with Mrs. U. G. Johnson. Mrs. J. P. Conner was elected president, a position she has held ever since, the most unique honor ever paid any woman in Denison. Mrs. W. J. Scriver was secretary up to the time of her death, an event much mourned by the club, which suffered a severe loss in the death of this member. Penelope is limited to 25 members, and has no dues.

Coffee Club had its beginning as have so many popular clubs, at the home of Mrs. W. H. Laub. The organization came about informally, but has proved to be a most delightful social feature. Mrs. Laub was the first president. The membership was first limited to eight, but it has been enlarged to ten members. Miss Meyers is the present head of the club.

The F. H. Club was formed in 1910 at the home of Mrs. Aug. Moeller, with Mrs. J. Phil Jones as first president. The club is social in character and very helpful. At each meeting it assists the hostess with work that she has provided for them. Each year the members contribute to the Christian Home at Council Bluffs. The F. H. supper is always an excellent feature and the members have a record of very enjoyable meetings. The S. S. Club defies classification for it comes either under the head of a social or a literary organization. The club has had a splendid growth and is largely intended for the social life of the business women of Denison, many of whom are engaged during the entire day and a large part of the evenings. The plan of meeting together for supper in the club room originated with Miss Meyers. The possession of this club room made the club possible and it has a flourishing membership of thirty members, composed of the business girls of Denison. The members have charge of the menu in rotation and the program is provided in the same way. Miss Ollie Towne was the first president of the club. Miss Effie Norris is the president for the year 1911. The guest nights of the S. S. club are noted for their originality. We doubt if any club in Denison is more appreciated or fills a greater place in the lives of its members.

CHAPTER XXIII.

CHURCHES

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DENISON.

By Mrs. Chas. K. Meyers.

In the research necessary to compile a history of the fifty-four years existence of the Baptist church in Denison, Iowa, many items of interest came to light, among them these facts. In the autumn of 1855, Rev. Jesse W. Denison came to Crawford county as agent for the Providence Western Land Company, and during that year and the next, selected large holdings of land for the company. In 1856 commenced the settlement of the town which in due course of time was named Denison after its enterprising agent. He was then in the prime of a vigorous manhood, energetic, and with ample means at his command, and naturally became the honored and efficient leader in public affairs, and the promoter of all things pertaining to its best welfare.

Scarcely were the lands located and the town site selected when Mr. Denison began to provide for educational advantages and church privileges. A school-house 14x20 was built by him on the beautiful rising ground now within the W. A. McHenry residence plot. This was an open hill-top affording an unobstructed view of the surrounding country in all directions. The building stood alone, on the most elevated portion then occupied in the town, and could be seen for miles around. Previous to this, Mr. Denison had held meetings and preached in the old Denison House, the only building of a public character in the town. When the school house was finished, religious services were at once established regularly in this new, and, at that time commodious building. Mr. Denison also preached in Mr. S. E. Dow's log house in Union township, in what is now known as Dow City. Mr. and Mrs. Dow were the pioneer Baptists of Dow City where they served the church faithfully for fifty years. Useful and helpful though these meetings were, Mr. Denison was planning for something more permanent and kept talking of the organization of a church. This seemed to some impossible, to others as not likely to be successful; a few were particularly favorable, while many thought that a lasting organization could not be effected. But he was persistent; kept talking about it and would not be discouraged and finally announced that a meeting would be held to consider the

organization of the First Baptist Church of Denison, Iowa. He then secured the promise of attendance from all that he could, and when the appointed time came, the meeting was well attended, and the matter of taking proper steps for such an organization was placed in Mr. Denison's hands to formulate and present to an adjourned meeting. This meeting occurred sometime in August of 1857, but it was not until October 31, 1857, that the organization was effected, with the following persons as charter members: Rev. Jesse W. Denison, Thomas H. Manners, Mrs. Isabella Manners, Wilson B. Manners, Margaret J. Manners, Ann M. Manners, Oscar S. Gates, Joseph D. Seagrave, George W. Calkins, Albert F. Bond.

On Sunday, November 1, the public exercises of the occasion occurred, Rev. J. W. Denison preaching the sermon of Recognition and S. F. Wallace of Bangor, Maine, giving the charge to the church. This was the beginning of "our church," small indeed, having little prestige, but moderate talent, and few in numbers. They all were assured of present benefit, were happy in the possession of privileges and associations and blessed in the presence of the Master and in the assurance that they were doing what they could. The Sabbath services, Sunday School, and Prayer Meetings were often of a tender and spiritual character. Earnest effort and devotion were surely receiving the Divine approval. The school house was often crowded, and a beneficent influence flowed from this center.

On March 5, 1858, a society was organized in connection with the church, composed of persons in the community who were not church members yet who were favorable to the cause of Christ and would cast their influence on the Lord's side. It was thought that such co-operation with Christian people would tend to win them in heart as well as hand to their Savior, and influence their children to lead Christian lives. This society commenced with eleven members, was numerous added to as time passed on, but with the growth of population and the organization of churches of various denominations in town and the adjacent country villages, the need for such a society ceased, and it was discontinued on March 29, 1863.

The church services were held in the school house until sometime in 1858, when the court room in the new county house was completed and the Baptists and Methodists used the room alternately until 1868, when the Baptists erected a church edifice which stood on the east side of Main street about mid-way between Broadway and Tremont street. On January 3, 1869, it was dedicated—the first house of worship in Crawford county. In the spring of 1875, business having increased the price of lots very materially, it was decided to sell this location and buy farther from the business center. This was done and the church building was moved to the corner of Chestnut and Sweet streets. In the spring of 1884, the church found it necessary to build a parsonage on the lot north of the church. The building was completed during the summer and was first occupied by Pastor Avery. As the church accumulated property it became necessary to have articles of incorporation, that the trustees might do business legally and these were adopted March, 18, 1884.

On the night of February 14, 1886, after an evening of shivering discomfort, although the sexton had been trying vainly to heat the church with green

wood, the edifice was completely destroyed by fire. Saddened but not disheartened, the brave little band faced the situation. Through the foresight and generosity of two of the members, insurance had been kept up, and with this for a beginning, a subscription was circulated and funds raised to build the present church. Meantime the preaching services were held regularly in the Germania Hall, where our Sunday School reached "high water mark"—400—and later in the Episcopal church until the dedication of the building on February 12, 1888. Among the many things destroyed by the burning of our church, none was more bewailed than the bell, for its sweet clear tones were the first to sound from a church tower in the county. It was bought by the help of many Sunday school scholars, as well as many other generous persons, and cost over \$400. It was of steel, its weight 750 pounds. The bell fell with the tower and was badly cracked. It was sold to Luney Brothers, who recast it and for a number of years it hung back of the old Presbyterian church in Denison, but on the building of their new church it was laid aside until 1906, when Rev. A. G. Martin secured it for the use of a Presbyterian church in Lawton, Iowa, where it was hung in the church tower, with suitable ceremonies of dedication.

At the time of the building of the new edifice the church had two thriving missions, one in Paradise township and the other near Coon Grove from which we received many earnest church members. Three of our young men were granted licenses to preach and supplied these mission stations and also at Charter Oak from time to time. These were Robt. P. Plimpton, Harry B. Shillington and Hugh H. Menagh.

As years passed on and our membership increased and our Sunday school classes crowded upon each other, it was found necessary to enlarge our borders, so under the efficient and painstaking oversight of Brother Halver A. Norman, the north wall of the auditorium was moved out 20 feet and the vestry enlarged 12 feet, and another vestibule built. The pulpit and choir loft are now more advantageously located. It has always been the aim of our honored board of trustees to keep the church in good repair, comfortably warmed and lighted, and their endeavors have met with the sincere appreciation of the membership, who have earnestly seconded their efforts. At the present time the church is making extensive improvements, among which is a memorial baptistry in memory of Mrs. Sarah Hagensen, who, at the time of her death, left a fund to be used as the church should direct.

The ministers who have served the church and have been our loved under-shepherds are: Rev. Jesse W. Denison, 1862-63; Rev. George Scott, 1863-70; Rev. Robert Dunlap, 1871-73; Rev. Arthur M. Duboc, 1873-76; Rev. J. B. Hawk, 1877-80; Rev. Amos Robinson, 1880-83; Rev. W. H. H. Avery, 1883-87; Rev. H. C. Nash, 1887-94; Rev. R. Venting, 1894-97; Rev. F. W. Bateson, 1898-02; Rev. G. E. Morphy, 1902-05; Rev. C. H. Stull, 1905-07; Rev. C. Edw. La Reau, 1907.

The total number of members who have united with the church is 704. There have gone from our church as missionaries to foreign lands, Brother John M. Carvell, to Assam, and Brother Albert E. Seagrave, to Burmah; as home missionaries, Sister Lily M. Plimpton to Texas and later to Utah, and

Sister Marilla Pettis to Montana. Miss Nellie Strong also did a noble work in Chicago for the few brief years given her and her death was greatly deplored by her fellow workers. Many others have gone out from this church to fill prominent positions in the Master's vineyard.

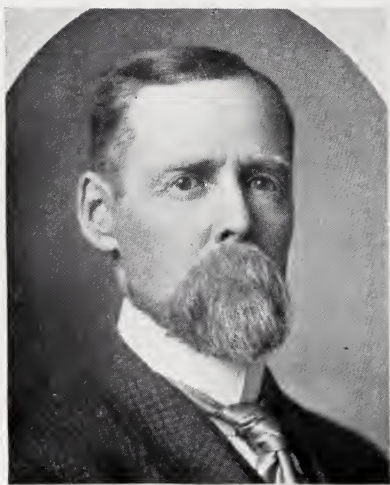
From W. A. McHenry, who located in Denison in 1865, we glean a few interesting facts concerning the early life of the church. At that time there were but fourteen houses in Denison and church services were held in the office of Mr. J. W. Denison over the Chicago store on the corner of Main and Tremont streets, the building which still stands in the same place. Later when meetings were held by the Baptists and Methodists alternately in the court room each Sabbath, Mr. McHenry carried over from his residence a tiny organ and his young bride played chords to lead in the service of song. This worthy young couple were both blessed with excellent voices, and together with those of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Plimpton a foundation was laid for good music for which this church has always had a splendid reputation.

Mr. E. S. Plimpton who labored in this field for over forty years, deserves special mention in this brief history. For many years he served as Sunday school superintendent, choir leader and teacher of the Young People's Bible class. A man of liberal education and truly worthy character, he was a power in each of these offices and no child could grow up in the church without receiving an inspiration to lead a noble and useful life; and so it is that from this church have gone to various parts of the world characters equipped to fill places of power and influence for the right. Mr. Plimpton many times filled the pulpit most acceptably during the absence of pastors. This church has been singularly blessed with faithful workers, and we would that space permitted us to mention very many of those who have been "lights along the way." However, we will not close without mentioning our present competent clerk, Mrs. Helen M. Cassaday, who has kept our records perfectly for more than seventeen years and our efficient choir leader, Mrs. Lou F. Martin, who for many years has led the music and thereby has been very helpful to the church.

Four years ago the First Baptist church celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its organization. It was a happy occasion and one long to be remembered. The one living charter member was present, Mr. Albert F. Bond of this city. Greetings were read from many former pastors and absent members and the service throughout was most appropriate.

Through all these years the church has maintained its weekly prayer meetings, first in the homes before a church was erected; and its missionary society and Sabbath school have always been most consecrated organizations. The key note of the spiritual life of the church has been "Do all to the honor and glory of God," while the leaders have ever taught that "Giving doth not impoverish, neither doth withholding enrich."

The present directorate of the church is: Pastor, Rev. C. Edward La Reau; clerk, Mrs. Helen M. Cassaday; treasurer, Mr. H. A. Carpenter; missionary treasurer, Miss Helen Hays; superintendent Sunday school, Mrs. Etta W. Plimpton; president B. Y. P. A., Miss Fannie B. Hays; president Mission Circle, Mrs. Frances Barber; organist, Miss May Hays; chairman trustees, Mr. H. A. Norman; senior deacon, Mr. J. L. Richardson.



DR. W. T. WRIGHT

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

By Dr. W. T. Wright.

The history of the Episcopal Church in Crawford County has to do almost solely with the towns of Vail and Denison. The first services were held at Vail in 1872, while the organization at Denison had its inception in 1875. From 1876 to 1879 Rev. Wm. Wright, of Denison, conducted services once or twice a month at the school house in Deloit, and in what was then called the Weatherhold school house, two miles south of the center of Otter creek township. The writer recollects many fervent meetings at these school houses.

An account by Mr. Fred Whiting states that several families from England, having settled in the year 1872 in the neighborhood of Vail, and being members of the church of England, a desire was felt by them for public worship. In accordance with this desire morning prayer was said in the Vail school house on Christmas day, 1872, the late Mr. H. Herbert Mundy officiating. This was the first Episcopal service held in Vail or Crawford county. On Christmas morning, 1873, services were conducted in the Vail school house by Mr. Fred Whiting. Services were conducted at the residences of the different church members though most frequently with Mr. Charles Wood, either Mr. H. Mundy, or Mr. Fred Whiting, reading lay service.

One of these services was attended by a number of Episcopalians from Denison, who were detained overnight by a severe storm. Mr. Fred Whiting occasionally held a lay service at Denison. After a time all the Vail services were held by Mr. Fred Whiting, at the Vail school house.

The first visit of an Episcopal clergyman to Vail was on the occasion of the marriage of Mr. Charles Wood to Miss Emma Mundy, May 11, 1875, when the Rev. George W. E. Fisse, assistant minister of St. Barnabas church, Omaha, Nebr., officiated.

The first minister to conduct public worship of the Episcopal church in Vail was Rev. Frederick T. Webb, of St. Paul's church, Council Bluffs. This was in the summer of 1875. Sunday School was organized at Vail about this time.

On the 27th of June, 1875, an organization was formed at Denison, under the name of the Episcopal Association of Denison, Iowa. The first meeting was held in the old court house. The object stated was to build up an Episcopal church in Denison. The Denison Review of the following week, June 30, 1875, noted these services thus:

"The Episcopalians of our town and neighborhood held services both morning and evening at Denison last Sunday. The services were conducted by the Rev. Frederick Webb, of Council Bluffs, and were held at the court house in the morning and at the Methodist church in the evening. There was a large attendance at both services and there is, no doubt, good material for the establishment of a permanent Episcopal church in this town. A collection meeting was held after each service in order to give those who are interested in the work an opportunity of stating their ideas and what help they would give. The following sums were promised to be paid annually: Roger Hayne, \$25.00; W.

R. Hayne, \$25.00; A. B. Hayne, \$25.00; H. Gower, \$25.00; J. Weitherhold, \$25.00; E. Sherrard, \$25.00; C. C. Lyttle, \$20.00; J. Steele, \$10.00; H. C. Laub, \$20.00.

"A committee was organized to carry on the work consisting of Roger Hayne to act as president, Edward Sherrard as treasurer and H. Gower secretary.

"A ladies' society was also formed to assist in this work, Mrs. Roger Hayne, president; Mrs. C. Lyttle, secretary. A Sunday school will be organized next Sabbath afternoon at 3 o'clock in the courthouse. Persons who were not present at these meetings and who are willing to contribute can add their names to the list by calling on the secretary."

A Sunday school was organized to meet each Sunday at 9 a. m., July 17, Rev. Mr. Webb again conducted services in the courthouse morning and evening, and on July 22, the Ladies Aid Society held a social entertainment of music and tableaux. The names of H. W. Hotchkiss and J. Fred Meyers were added to those subscribing.

On October 10, 1875, Rev. Sydney Smith of Des Moines held service at Denison both morning and evening and at Vail in the afternoon. On the afternoon of Sunday, October 31, 1875, Rev. Wm. Wright held a service in the schoolhouse at Vail and was after that regularly in charge while a resident at Denison. Mr. Wright conducted the first communion service of the Episcopal church at Vail in the winter of 1876, and the second at 8 a. m. of Easter day, April 16, 1876. February 27, 1876, Bishop R. H. Clarkson of Nebraska, at the dedication of the Episcopal church at Denison, confirmed the following five from Vail: Mrs. E. Bannister, Frederick Forrest, Henry Forrest, David Gurney, Reginald Platt. The First Episcopal visitation at Vail was on Saturday, May 11, 1878, by Bishop Stevens Perry, in the schoolhouse, where four were confirmed: Mrs. Eliza Miller, Mrs. Eliza Stewart, Miss Eliza Taylor and Mrs. Emily Forrest.

On November 1, 1875, Rev. Wm. Wright officiated for the first time in Denison, after which time Mr. Wright came regularly from Council Bluffs twice a month, and the alternate Sundays were filled by Mr. Roger Hayne with lay reading. At a meeting on December 3, 1875, Rev. Wm. Wright presiding, it was decided on motion "That the Episcopal Association of Denison do now form ourselves into a parish under the name of Trinity Parish." Roger Hayne was elected Senior Warden; Harry Gower, Junior Warden and Clerk; and J. G. Wygant, J. W. Steele, C. C. Lytle, Edward Sherrard, Alfred S. Hayne, Vestrymen. The Denison Review of December 1, 1875, contains this notice: "The Episcopal church building is progressing nicely. It will be under roof next week, and when finished will be a landmark of East Denison. It is rare that a church building is so quickly erected by the pluck of a few members." Mr. Wright, the rector, having been an architect, planned the building and made the drawings and specifications for the contractors. He also secured a part of the subscriptions from parishes in the east. The most of the cost, however, was made up in Denison. It reached about \$2,024, exclusive of the two lots at No. 333 East Broadway, one of which cost the society \$100, while the other was donated by the Blair Town Lot & Land Co. This church was dedicated on Sunday, March 1, 1876, by the Right Rev. Bishop Clarkson, of Nebraska, assisted by Rev. F.

Webb, of Council Bluffs and the rector, Rev. Wm. Wright. In size 28x40 and seating 150, it has been large enough to meet the wants of the congregation to the present.

On Easter Monday following the dedication, the Senior and Junior Wardens as above recorded were reelected. At a meeting of the Sunday school Roger Hayne was elected superintendent, Harry Gower, assistant superintendent, J. W. Steele, treasurer and Mrs. McClellan, librarian.

The Denison Review of May 10, 1876, notes: "We are pleased to learn that Rev. Mr. Wright will build himself a parsonage and make Denison the headquarters of his mission." For more than three years Mr. Wright conducted the parish at Denison and the mission at Vail, driving for afternoon service at Vail and back for the evening at Denison, occasionally when the roads were very bad, having no time before meeting for the evening meal. During these years Mr. Wright held regular monthly church services at what was then the town of Ida, since named Ida Grove, driving the thirty miles as the town of Ida had no railroads in 1876. After May, 1878, he held only occasionally a communion service at Vail and Mr. J. P. Fitch conducted lay service regularly at that town. Mr. Wright resigned at Denison in 1880, to remove to East Des Moines, and was among the founders of the church on the east side at Des Moines.

In 1881 Rev. L. C. Fackenthal, then in deacon's orders, took charge at Denison and conducted Episcopal service at Vail on alternate Sunday afternoons in the Methodist church. He was followed by Rev. W. J. Lynd, who was a resident in Denison in 1882. Rev. Lynd laid the cornerstone of the church building at Vail in 1882. At this time the name of the organization at Vail was changed from Grace Mission to St. John's Mission. The first service in this building was held by Rev. Mr. Flack, in the summer of 1883. The building was moved in the spring of 1888 from lot 3, block 28, to lot 1, block 17.

According to an item in the "Bible Student," a parish paper in 1896, Rev. Peter Fox of Sac City, began his charge at Vail October 27, 1884, and took charge at Denison, January 9, 1885. Denison at this time was reduced from a parish to the status of a mission, receiving aid from the diocesan fund. In 1886, Rev. W. W. Corbyn was appointed to care for the two missions and took up his residence at Vail. The Record in Vail says: "Mr. Corbyn, a resident of Vail, zealous and devoted to his work, was able to offer more church privileges than as a mission we had before known. The church seasons were observed, week-day services were held, Saint's days kept, and frequent celebrations of the Blessed Eucharist held early and mid-day and appropriate vestments used."

Mr. Corbyn leaving Vail in 1888, Rev. Peter Fox again took charge of the mission while residing in Sac City. On Sunday, October 4, 1891, Rev. Wm. Wright preached in St. John's church, Vail, and on November 1 took regular charge of Vail and Carroll, residing at Carroll. After one or two years, Mr. Wright took up his residence at Vail, and gave his whole attention to this mission. Denison was for several years after 1890 without a regular Episcopal pastor, but was occasionally visited by Rev. Wm. Wright, in connection with Vail.

In 1898, Bishop Morrison appointed the Very Rev. Dean Allen Judd, resident at Des Moines to the charge of several missions in western Iowa, among

them being Carroll, Vail and Denison. At this time Mr. Wright, by reason of the infirmities of years, and increasing ill health was compelled to close his work. Two years later, in June, 1900, at the age of 76 years, he was buried from the little church he had loved and cherished. His wife Rachel Wright after ten more years of active work, in this church and Sunday school, was laid to rest on March 13, 1910, at the age of 81. Dean Judd with great energy and devotion awakened renewed action in these missions. He was assisted in Crawford county by Rev. Mr. Talbot, from July, 1898, to January, 1900. Mr. Talbot resided at Mapleton. February 15, 1903, Mr. Storcy, then a student of Tabor College, preparing for the ministry, held lay service at Denison and afterwards attended alternately with Dean Judd for about six months. During the last years of Mr. Wright's service, the building had been repaired and Dean Judd led in a movement for interior improvement. He added a furnace, in 1903, and it was largely through the stimulus of his efforts that the Ladies' Guild was able in the summer of 1905 to beautify the interior of the church. They were encouraged and assisted in this work by Rev. Mr. Joseph, who had followed Dean Judd, preaching his first sermon at Denison, September 13, 1903, though at that time only in deacon's orders. Mr. Joseph was ordained in February, 1904. For the next one and one-half years he successfully conducted the three missions of Carroll, Vail and Denison.

His last sermon was preached at Denison, May 14, 1905. During the summer of 1905, with the improvements added by the Ladies' Guild and the financial aid of Bishop Morrison, who sent more than \$100, the children's society of St. Agnes, gave \$100 to provide for electric lighting. Mr. Joseph was followed by Rev. Arthur Pratt, on July 14, 1905. Mr. Pratt's work at the three missions was energetic and successful. He organized a surpliced choir. Mr. Pratt continued in charge until July 8, 1907, when he returned to his childhood home in England.

After eight months without a pastor, Rev. C. A. Corbitt, then resident of Lemars, took regular charge of the three missions, preaching each Sunday as Rev. Mr. Pratt had done at Carroll, Vail and Denison. His first service in Denison was on March 29, 1908. He continued in charge until May, 1910, after which services were discontinued for one year, Mr. Corbitt again taking up this work in March, 1911, his home at this time being Sioux City.

The Ladies' Guild and the Sunday school were active working organizations during periods when there was no preaching. The Sunday school was reorganized by Rev. Dean Judd, September 29, 1902, with Miss Mary Beard as superintendent, she holding the office until August, 1907. On Miss Beard's departure for her home in Montana, Mrs. R. Shaw Van was elected and still leads the school in 1911. The teachers since the reorganization in 1902 have been: Mrs. R. Shaw Van, Mrs. Thomas Morris, Mrs. Rachel Wright, Mrs. E. F. Tucker, Miss Nellie Evans, Mrs. S. G. Wright, Mrs. Phil A. Schlumberger, Miss Mary Beard, Rev. Mr. Joseph, Rev. Arthur Pratt, Miss Margaret Reynolds, Miss Anna Schlumberger, Miss Alma Wright and Miss Grace Schlumberger. The average attendance has been twenty-one.

Such is a brief record of events in the development of the Episcopal church of Crawford county. It is impossible to present a picture that would convey a

realization of the thoughts and sentiments that have been prompted in thirty-five years by the public services and all the other gatherings for which any church organization is responsible. And yet I feel constrained to add as far as may be possible, the names of attendants, for simply a name catching the eye of a friend, will call up pictures and recollections that art is powerless to portray. In the beginning at Vail were the families of Wood, Mundy, Forrest, Whiting, Heavysides, added to almost at the first by J. P. Fitch and family and afterwards his grandchildren, the Chamberlins, Henry Shirtcliffe, wife and children, Mrs. Ainsworth and Mrs. Reilley and grandchildren. The Reilleys and Cramptons and after 1892 for more than ten years the Kinyons, the Misses Evans, the Doblars and children, the Prices and the Mahons; Mrs. Wm. Butler and daughter Carrie, John Knowles and family, Miss Minnie Evison, Mrs. Joe Rundlett, Mr. H. E. Rasmusson and family and Thomas Bartlett.

At Denison there were at first Roger Hayne and wife and brother Alfred Hayne, J. G. Wygant and wife, whose children and grandchildren afterward became active in church and Sunday school work. Miss Sarah Mills, Edw. Sherard with large family and afterwards children of his son Fred; F. J. Young and J. W. Steele and family; Wm. Raine and family; Rev. Wm. Wright and family, and after 1895 his son, Dr. Wright and wife and family, Mrs. Gillette and her daughter, Mrs. Ward Cramer, Wm. Northum and wife, Mrs. George Heston, daughters and grandchildren; John Crawford and wife, Mrs. Capt. Darling, Emma Standish, Jane Bouldron, Mary Ann Winklehofer, Mrs. Mollie Holmes, Mrs. Murray Cochrane. In the beginning and again in later years, a sister of Mrs. Rachel Wright, Miss Reynolds, who secured for Trinity a beautiful silver communion set, the gift of her old home parish at New Canaan, Conn.; Frank Tabor and wife, C. C. Lytle and wife, Harry Gower, Mrs. Van Steenberg, who was the first organist, W. H. Wygant and wife and daughter Carrie, who was organist for several years, Mrs. M. McClellan, who was first Sunday school librarian, J. S. Nicholson, H. C. Wooster, Fred Close and W. B. Close, Jacob Weatherhold and family, and M. Stone and wife and afterward daughters and grandchild. Owing to removals there never has since been a time when the parish had nearly the same numerical or financial strength. After some years were added to the congregation, Miss Grace Meyers, who was an active worker in the Sunday school, Miss Angie Sayre, afterwards Mrs. U. G. Johnson, Miss Walker, afterwards Mrs. Thomas Morris, for many years up to the present an active worker in church and Sunday school, the family of Mrs. Wrigley whose son Mark became a member of the vestry, and daughter Mary and Anna, who married Phil A. Schlumberger, whose children afterward became active workers in church and Sunday school, Mrs. R. Shaw Van for many years a worker in guild and Sunday school and in later years was organist up to 1908, when she was succeeded by Miss Winifred Wright.

After 1902, the Misses Mary and Clara Beard and the Misses Evans, Emma Brodhurst, Mary Broadman, Miss Lizzie Fullick, afterward Mrs. Fred Marshal, Miss Hattie Cornwall, afterward Mrs. D. L. Boynton, was organist for some years, W. H. Gregory and son Horace, Mrs. S. G. Wright, in earlier days, and for several years away again for the last ten years as a member of the bishop's committee, which in a mission takes the place of a parish vestry, Mrs. O. A.

Patterson also for several years was a member of the bishop's committee. Mrs. Don Butler of Arion and her daughter Stella, Miss Kate Dawson, Mrs. Hedman, Wm. Rogers and daughter Emily, Mrs. Ferguson, Mr. Rowland Philbrook, Mrs. Terry, Mrs. J. L. Ainsworth, Mr. and Mrs. Shirtcliffe, Mr. Joe Scott and family, Mr. Nicholas Scott and family, the Misses Watson, Miss Lucy Drake, Miss Reilley and Mrs. George McHenry.

It is a thought pleasing to the writer that this little sketch may fill its place in the history, just as the Episcopal church continues to take a part in the active life drama of Crawford county and that it may call up some recollections that shall give pleasure to the reader, who may be interested in some events and names here recorded.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The German Evangelical Zion's Congregation of the Augsburg Confession was organized in Denison in January, 1868. The one of the pioneer churches. The first congregation was small as there were but few Germans in the vicinity. They were very faithful, however, and clung tenaciously to the religion of the Fatherland. The first minister was Rev. Doescher and in the beginning services were held once every four weeks in a private house or in the court house. The next clergymen were Rev. Lauterbach and Rev. Mertens. The first resident pastor was Rev. G. Harr, who was called in 1872. In 1873, the congregation bought the old brick school house which had been preceded by the west brick school. They also bought three lots in West Denison and this property has been occupied by them for church purposes ever since. In 1875, a parsonage was built and with the incoming rush of German immigration the church grew and prospered. After ten years of active and successful services in Denison, Rev. Harr accepted a call to another place. His successor, Rev. J. C. Theo. Brauer, was called in 1882, remaining but one year. In 1883, the congregation called W. T. Strobel. With his administration began the organization of the Parochial school which has been maintained up to this day. In 1888 the congregation voted to build a new church with dimensions 70 feet long, 34 feet wide and with a tower 70 feet. The corner stone was laid on Palm Sunday 1889, Rev. A. Amstern delivering the address. The building committee consisted of Carl Hartwig, Claus Salomon and Henry Otto, Sr. This church was completed and has given great satisfaction to the membership.

On account of old age, Rev. Strobel resigned the pastorate in 1890, whereupon the congregation called Rev. F. Lothringer of Rock Island, Ill., who was ordained the latter part of August, 1890, by Rev. Strobel, assisted by Rev. Hermann of Arcadia. At that time there were thirty members and this was increased to forty-two members by 1895. In the summer of this year the congregation built a new parsonage and in 1897 the church celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. Rev. G. Harr and Rev. W. T. Strobel were the speakers and guests of honor. In the fall of 1893, the congregation called Rev. Wm. Frese of Council Bluffs, the present pastor. During the last eight years the congregation has increased to ninety-one members. The Parochial school, which was formerly conducted by the pastors in charge of the congregation, is now in charge

of a competent teacher, Mr. Theodore Benecke, Sr., who has been at the head of the school for the last four years. The congregation is free from debt and owns a valuable property in west Denison, which it means to improve as time goes on. The present church officers are Deacons F. J. Evers, Denison township; Wm. Lochmiller, of East Boyer; Robt. Ernst, of Denison. The trustees: Peter Meggers, of Denison; Lewis Messenbrink, of East Boyer; C. H. Wendt, of Denison. School trustees are: Chas. Hartwig, Wm. Schurke and Mr. Peter Teut, of Denison.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN TRINITY CHURCH.

Manilla.

The Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church, of Manilla, was organized October 24, 1886, at Aspinwall, Iowa, where the first services were held in the schoolhouse, and the congregation continued to meet at this point until 1888, when the services were transferred to the new town of Manilla. In 1893 a small church was built, at a cost of six hundred dollars, on lots 1 and 2, block 30, Manilla, which sufficed for the needs of the congregation until 1904, when the new church was built at a cost of three thousand dollars.

In the original organization of the church the charter members were: Charles Wenzel, Fred Wenzel, William Kraupp, John Swies, and Andrew Rohls. They now have twenty-six voting members, seventy communicants and one hundred and twenty-one regular attendants, including adults and children.

The list of the services of the pastors of the church is as follows: 1886, Rev. W. Mallon; 1887, Rev. A. Ehler; 1897, Rev. Krog; 1904, Rev. Seegers; 1906, Rev. W. Engelke; 1908 to date, Rev. H. Wendt.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

Manilla.

The German Evangelical Lutheran Peace congregation was organized at a special meeting held in Germania hall in Manilla, April 22, 1906. The first officers elected were: F. C. Bock, President; Henry Wiese, Vice President; H. W. Lebeck, Secretary; and Frank Proescholdt, Treasurer.

A room in the school building was secured for temporary services and on July 15, 1906, it was decided to build a church. Mr. John Fastje of Denison was the contractor and the church was dedicated in December of the same year. Rev. P. Hoepfner of Waverly, Iowa, delivered the dedicatorial sermon in the morning and the Rev. G. Braun and Rev. E. Hansen, the home pastor, spoke in the afternoon. At the annual conference held at Clarence, Iowa, in the spring of 1907, the congregation was accepted into membership of the German Evangelical Synod of North America. Despite many difficulties, the young congregation grew and prospered and in 1909, Rev. Paul Bratzel, was appointed assistant pastor. During the pastorate of Rev. E. Hansen, twenty-five persons were baptized, eighteen confirmed, and three buried. On Palm Sunday, 1909, eighteen children were confirmed.

Rev. Hansen filled charges at Schleswig and Manilla, but owing to the difficulty of transportation, he was obliged to resign the Manilla charge. He was

succeeded in May, 1910, by Rev. K. Rest. On July 19, 1910, the present pastor, Rev. A. W. Freuchte, took charge of the work. Rev. Freuchte is a graduate of Elmhurst College and the Eden Theological Seminary of Missouri. He is an enthusiastic and intelligent worker, supplying the charges both at Manilla and Manning.

The present officers are President, Jacob Gessman; W. F. Boeck, Vice President; H. W. Boeck, Secretary; Christ Christensen, Treasurer.

The present membership is 22, Sunday School enrollment is 30, and there is an efficient Ladies' Aid Society with a membership of 14. The congregation owns property valued at \$3,000.

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

Charter Oak.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Charter Oak, was organized on the 1st of March, 1896, with the following charter members: George Neddermeyer, William Topf, B. L. Jacobsen, Charles Radeck, Charles Buaman and F. Radeck. The meeting was held in the Swedish Lutheran church, at which place services were conducted each third Sunday thereafter. The list of the pastors who have presided over the congregation since the time of its organization are as follows: During the year 1896, Rev. E. Gabriel; 1897 to 1900, Rev. A. Mathias; 1900 to 1903, Rev. H. Schliesser; 1903 to 1906, Rev. H. Wendt; 1907, Rev. A. C. Zeilinger; 1908 to date, Rev. H. Wendt.

The church at present has a congregation of about one hundred and twenty souls, including adults and children, its membership numbering thirty-two and its communicants seventy. They have no building of their own as yet, but in 1905 four hundred dollars was paid for a two and a half acre cemetery site, which is beautifully located near town, and which was laid out the same year.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

Charter Oak.

This church was organized on the 13th day of March, 1881, by Rev. G. Haar, with the following seven voting members: George Schelm, Henry Kuhlmann, Christian Neddermeyer, George Neddermeyer, Friedrich Bockelmann, Dietrich Vanier, Henry Schroeder.

In 1887 the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway founded the town of Charter Oak. A few of the members bought a few lots, and one lot was presented by the railway company. In the year 1888 the first church was built, 30x50, at a cost of \$1,399. At the dedication of the first church building, Rev. Stroble, of Denison, gave services in the forenoon in German and Rev. M. Hermann in the afternoon in English.

The first resident minister, Rev. A. Amstein, still resides here. He accepted a call in 1890. The first parsonage was built in 1890. The congregation built a new schoolhouse in 1902, 32x36, hall 8x8. Up to this time school was kept in the back part of the church, which had been arranged for such purposes. In 1904 a new two-story parsonage was built, containing nine big rooms and an attic.

In the first quarterly meeting in 1907 the congregation voted to build a new church, 38x64. On the 14th day of July, 1907, the cornerstone was laid. Services were held in the city hall of Charter Oak for eleven months, until the 29th day of March, 1908, the new church was dedicated. A nice bell was presented by the younger folks at a cost of \$400. Rev. C. Runge, of Hanover, gave services in German, in the morning on the day of the dedication, Rev. H. Wehking, of Alta, Iowa, services in German in the afternoon, and Rev. W. Freese, of Denison, gave services in the evening in English. The church was erected at the cost of \$10,000, which is all paid. Officers: Paul F. Fiene, president; Peter Timm, Fritz Vogt and Juergen Koch, deacons; William Kroll, treasurer; John Timm, secretary; Chris Stoll, janitor; Mrs. H. G. Shumway, organist.

The first school was opened in the year of 1890 with two pupils. School was kept four days out of the week. Now, in December (1910), there are thirty-six pupils in school. The main purpose of the school is to give the children instructions of the doctrine of our church. Every year a class is confirmed on Palm Sunday.

The Ladies' Aid Society has done much for the church. Officers first elected were: President, Mrs. F. Riedesel; vice-president, Mrs. A. Amstein; secretary, Mrs. M. M. Black; treasurer, Mrs. P. Fiene.

The object is charity in the congregation and institutions connected with the church.

The new church was furnished by the society and the other lady members of the congregation.

Poor students have been aided with money and some institutions with clothing and bedding.

A room in the Lutheran Hospital at Sioux City was furnished by this society. The society at the present time has fifty-four members.

The present officers of the society are: Mrs. Chr. Iversen, president; Mrs. William Kunze, vice-president; Mrs. M. M. Black, treasurer, and Mrs. Chr. Stoll, secretary.

THE METHODISTS OF CRAWFORD COUNTY.

By Mr. E. W. Pierce.

The early history of any movement which from small beginning grows to influence and becomes a factor in the life of the community in which it is planted is always interesting. For this reason more space proportionately in this chapter is given to the planting and earlier history of the great Methodist Episcopal church in Crawford county.

The fathers could not have planned a more effective instrument for the evangelization of a new and growing country than the itinerant system of the Methodist church. At the annual conference each preacher receives appointment for the year from the presiding bishop to which he is bound to go. Thus it was that Landon Taylor was appointed to be presiding elder of Sioux City district of Upper Iowa conference and William Black to the Crawford Carroll Mission. The Sioux City district, be it known, covered all of northwest Iowa and the Dakotas, and the Crawford Carroll Mission had appointments as follows:

Smithland, Mapleton, Denison or Mason's Grove, Carrollton, Lake City, Sac City and Ida Grove.

The first sermon, which was also the first gospel message in Crawford county was by Rev. William Black at the home of Mr. Rufus Richardson near Mason's Grove, just east of Deloit, October 16, 1856. At this meeting a class was formed and arrangements made for regular services. The class numbered seven and the class leader was Mr. George C. King, who with his wife, now Mrs. A. F. Bond, Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Wight and Morris McHenry composed the first church organization of the Methodist church in this county. Five more members were soon added: Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Huckstep, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Todd, and Mrs. Vincent Cheadle.

In the early days the quarterly meeting and presiding elder's sermon were great events. The first quarterly meeting for Crawford Carroll mission was at the schoolhouse in Mason's Grove, Presiding Elder Landon Taylor and Pastor William Black both present. Landon Taylor was a great and good man of large ability, deep consecration and strong emotions. In the course of his sermons his face would shine and his eyes overflow and this caused him to be called the "weeping prophet." He is entitled to larger space, but information concerning him is all too meager. At this meeting W. T. Huckstep and Misses Julia and Kittie King were baptized and joined the church on probation.

The second quarterly meeting was held January 17, 1858, in a schoolhouse in Denison located on the present site of the W. A. McHenry residence. The third quarterly meeting was held at the J. B. Huckstep home in Milford township May 30, 1858, and this was called the "Prairie Appointment." The records show that J. B. Huckstep and W. B. Todd were elected trustees. The fourth quarterly meeting was in Denison, July 25, 1858, and with this pass out Landon Taylor and William Black.

The annual conference of that year appointed George Clifford to be presiding elder and W. O. Glassner to be preacher in charge. The first quarterly meeting for that year was at Mason's Grove November 21, 1858. The task of bringing the new pastor from Fort Dodge was assigned to Mr. A. F. Bond. The roads in those days were cross country trails and Mr. Bond could tell some interesting experiences about Purgatory Slough and Hell Gate Slough. Rev. Glassner served one year and was succeeded by D. P. Billings, and the first quarterly meeting of this year was held at Mason's Grove November 29, 1859. J. B. Huckstep and Morris McHenry reported as class leaders; W. D. Todd and Vincent Cheadle, stewards; committee on missions, Todd, Huckstep and McHenry. McHenry, Huckstep and Cheadle, committee to estimate pastor's salary; \$350 was estimated for pastor and \$40 for presiding elder. The second quarterly conference for this year was at Denison. The items of interest at this conference and showing a growing church are that H. C. Laub and H. C. McWilliams are added to the board of stewards, also H. C. McWilliams was approved as Sunday school superintendent. The financial report was \$22 from Denison on pastor's salary, \$15 from Mason's Grove, and \$35 from the Missionary Society, and the public collection was \$2.85.

Perhaps it is not known by many that in its early history the Methodist church in Crawford county was supported in part by missionary money.

At the third quarterly meeting held at Mason's Grove May 26, 1860, beside the usual business conference, a resolution was passed to build a parsonage. Rev. Billings served one year. He was succeeded by Rev. Smith Knickerbocker, who served two years. The first quarterly meeting for this year was at Denison October 20, 1860, at which two Sunday schools were reported, a more detailed account of which will be given in another place.

In the fall of 1862 Daniel Lamont became presiding elder and D. W. Risher pastor, who served one year and was succeeded by E. R. Latta. The first quarterly meeting for his pastorate was held at Deloit November 6, 1863. The record shows pastoral support as follows: Denison, \$200; Deloit, \$40; Paradise, now Dow City, \$40. The fourth quarterly meeting of 1864, the question of parsonage was raised and the report given was that it was slowly progressing. Rev. Latta served two years.

The close of the annual conference of 1864 found Rev. M. D. Collins appointed to Denison charge, which included Deloit and Paradise, and Cornelius Green, exhorter. During this pastorate the parsonage was built on the present site of the Baptist church. Rev. Collins was an able preacher and is held in pleasant memory by those of his people who still live. He was succeeded by Rev. W. T. Smith, who served one year. He was afterward presiding elder of the Council Bluffs district, also Boone district and assistant secretary of the Missionary Society. He was succeeded by Rev. J. W. Snodgrass, and in his pastorate in the year 1868 a church was built where the present church stands, which continued to be used until the church now used was built and was donated to the German Methodist church and used for a number of years as their place of worship.

During the years from 1868 to 1876 the church was served by W. E. Smith, B. Shinn, W. W. Glanville, G. C. Waynick and Jacob Fegtley; the first three serving one year each, Rev. Waynick two and Rev. Fegtley three years. These years were uneventful except in faithful service by the pastors and devotion to duty by the membership of the church, and special revival services by Rev. Shinn and Rev. Waynick at Dowville and Paradise are mentioned in their records as of far-reaching influence and large neighborhood interest.

At the session of Des Moines conference in September, 1876, Denison was made a station; Dow City having been made the leading point in a new circuit. The first pastor of Denison station or charge was Rev. E. W. Sage, who served two years. He was succeeded by Rev. Asa Sleeth for one year. These years and the two following were rather uneventful. Rev. J. A. Wilson came in the fall of 1879 and Rev. W. J. Beck in 1880, each for one year. The church, however, grew in membership and influence, and gave evidence of faithfulness on the part of its members and excellent leadership by the pastors.

Rev. Dinsmore Austin was appointed to Denison in 1881 and stayed the then pastoral limit of three years. Rev. Austin was popular with his people, an excellent pastor and forceful preacher. The Denison Methodist church recorded substantial growth during his pastorate. The year 1884 brought Rev. Asahel Thornbrue as pastor for a period of two years. The church continued to prosper, but had not become fully inoculated with the great church enterprises, for the records show that in 1886 the total amount raised for all benevolences was

but \$206. During this pastorate Archer Steele, Jr., was led to offer himself as a missionary and was recommended for an exhorter's license to that end. Rev. J. R. Wellborn came in September, 1886, for two eventful years; for during this pastorate were what is known as the "Detwiler meetings," from Rev. G. W. Detwiler, evangelist, a series of meetings of far-reaching influence, not only in quickening the church itself, but in adding to the membership and also in its wholesome effect on the entire community. Another event of importance was the building of the present house of worship, costing nearly seven thousand dollars; also the entertainment for the first time in the history of Denison of the Des Moines annual conference. The new church was dedicated by Chaplain McCabe. This was an occasion of unusual interest. Rev. J. B. Harris became pastor in 1889 and remained five years, the limit having been extended from three years to five during his pastorate. Rev. Harris was small in body but large in spirit and ability. Every department of the church work was carried along with energy as indicated by the official records. During this pastorate the church was enlarged with reopening services by Bishop Bowman.

In 1894 Rev. J. S. Wright became pastor for two years. He was his own evangelist and held during the first winter of this pastoral term a very successful revival, lasting several weeks. Rev. Wright was an excellent organizer and probably the church has never been more effectively organized than following this series of revival meetings. He was also a great preacher. In 1896 Rev. E. E. Ilgenfritz came for three years. In these years the church was subjected to internal improvements and the parsonage built as it now stands; also the annual conference was entertained for the second time. Rev. J. B. Harris was returned for one year at this conference of 1899. Rev. Harris maintained his former popularity in this pastorate. After one year he was succeeded by Rev. Dr. E. M. Holmes, who remained two years. Dr. Holmes' pastorate was successful in every respect. All departments of the church work realized the leadership of an excellent pastor and preacher. Dr. Holmes was succeeded in 1902 by Dr. Emory Miller, who remained three years. Dr. Miller is one of the great preachers of Methodism. He will be remembered long and kindly by the Denison church as not only preaching, but also teaching the gospel.

In 1905 came Rev. T. E. Thuresson, also for three years. Rev. Thuresson is a very eloquent preacher.

The present pastor, Dr. J. H. Senseney, came in September, 1908, and is now in his third year as pastor. Dr. Senseney has been his own evangelist, except during a union meeting conducted by Dr. Oestrom in the fall of 1909. Perhaps the notable event so far is the gift of a pipe organ by Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Voss and the consequent necessary enlarging of the church. The pastorate of Dr. Senseney is able and will be known as one of the most successful in the history of the church.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Dow City grew from the Paradise appointment of the Deloit-Denison charge. The Paradise appointment was taken up in the early summer of 1863. The charter members were Mrs. Susan Comfort, in whose home services were first held and later in a schoolhouse about a mile and one-half northwest of Dow City, and her daughters, Mrs. J. H. Woodruff and Martha, now Mrs. Bruner. Rev. D. W. Risher was the first pastor and

after conference in the fall of 1864, he was succeeded by Rev. Latta, and he by M. D. Collins, who is remembered with much affection by the whole charge. In 1866 Rev. W. T. Smith followed and after him, Father Snodgrass. The early history of the Paradise appointment is merged so nearly with Denison that the story of one is the story of the other so far as pastors were concerned; each one being a unit of the same charge. A very gracious revival was held by the Rev. Brother Shinn. The class was reorganized on January 25, 1870, the following persons uniting: Martha Whaley, Mr. and Mrs. George Rae, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rae, Grandma Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. James Bell, Laura Duncan, Mary E. Smith, Elizabeth Forterbury, Cynthia C. Baggat, Mrs. G. W. Huntington, Elizabeth H. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Martin, Aunt Maggie Talcott, and Mr. and Mrs. William Wallace. In the fall of 1871 services were transferred from the schoolhouse northwest of town to the new schoolhouse in Dowville, now Dow City, where they continued to be held until 1878, when the schoolhouse was sold to the Latter Day Saints. This forced the Methodist people to move and through the generosity of Mr. S. E. Dow, the owner of the old cheese factory, the large upper room of the building was secured for a place of worship and the following year the church was built.

At the annual conference in the fall of 1876 Dowville was separated from Denison charge and created into an independent charge and the Rev. William Patterson assigned to it. Brother Patterson came to his work, but found no parsonage, few people but plenty of territory. He and his family were hospitably received and the people rallied at once to build a parsonage and in a few weeks the preacher and family were established in their parsonage home. After looking the field over, preaching appointments were established at Dowville, Willow, Theobald's schoolhouse near where Astor is now, Pleasant Hill in East Boyer township, and Grand Valley near Manning. The circuit was thirty miles long. Brother Patterson started out Saturday afternoon and preached three times each Sunday. The new charge started out bravely. The first official board was as follows: John Slater, A. L. Bell, M. G. Wiggins, L. E. Hardy, George Rae, A. K. Henney, C. Farrington, Thomas Selby, Emza Graham, C. Schofield, Samuel Gibson, Thomas Rae, Robert Theobald, William Parkins and A. Underhill. Rev. Patterson served two years and was succeeded by Rev. M. A. Wright. The services were held in the upper room of the cheese factory during Rev. Wright's term of one year and a most thoroughgoing revival was held in that upper room which is held in grateful remembrance. During this year the church was built and in the fall Rev. Cyrus Smith was appointed to the charge. Brother Smith added Buck Grove and McBrides and later Paradise, making eight appointments. Finding the work too heavy, he secured as assistant first Brother Allan Lynn and later Henry J. Smith. Brother Smith served three years. During his last year the charge was divided, reserving to Dow City, Willow, Paradise and Buck Grove.

The next pastor at Dow City was Rev. J. S. Morrow, who stayed one year. He was succeeded by Rev. H. H. Barton. Mr. Barton was a graduate of Drew Theological Seminary and had been private secretary to Bishop Hurst during a part of his term at Drew; the bishop having been president at that time. Brother Barton stayed the then time limit of three years. He was probably the

most scholarly pastor who ever served the Dow City charge. His preaching was very acceptable and his work among the children deserves special mention and will no doubt have lasting results. He was succeeded by Rev. S. W. Lauck, who served two years. Rev. Lauck was energetic and resourceful. Probably the most important feature of his term was a revival of marked success in the country northwest of town about four miles.

Rev. Hugh Lynn came in the fall of 1888 and served three years. He was a man of great earnestness and piety and the church prospered under his pastorate. During the fall of his first year Dow City had the privilege of entertaining the district conference of Council Bluffs district. The next pastor was Rev. L. Jean one year, followed by Rev. G. F. Natson for one year, during which a very gracious revival is remembered. Rev. J. L. Boyd succeeded for two years. During a part of his first year he was afflicted with a serious illness, during which time the work was supplied by some local brethren from Council Bluffs, Woodbine and elsewhere. The next pastor was Rev. G. L. Goodell, who was ably assisted by his wife. They remained three years and left all departments of the church in good working order and a prosperous condition.

The Des Moines annual conference in September, 1897, appointed C. D. Fawcett as pastor to succeed Rev. Goodell and in 1898, he was succeeded by A. M. Molesworth who served two years.

D. M. Houghtelin came in the fall of 1900 for two years. These years and the following one of E. E. Goodrich and three of J. J. Varley were uneventful but busy and years of growth. Rev. A. L. Curtis filled the pastorate for three years and was succeeded in 1909 by the present pastor, G. W. Koser, who is now in his second year.

The church at Manilla is the offspring of the original planting at Mason's Grove. Preaching and Sunday schools were held at the Theobald and Swan schoolhouses; the first near the present site of Astor and the second near the place where the Pleasant Hill church was subsequently built. Rev. William Patterson supplied the preaching and these points were a part of the Dow City circuit for about five years. In the fall of 1881 the Astor charge was separated from Dow City and Rev. S. W. Milligan appointed as pastor. He served one year and was succeeded by Rev. J. W. Coe for two years. During these pastorates the church and parsonage at Astor were built. The third pastor was Rev. W. L. Douglass for one year and then Rev. Hugh Linn for three years. Manilla was established as a Junction point by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company and was so near the town of Astor as practically to absorb it, hence along with other enterprises the church was moved to Manilla and the charge is thenceforward known as the Manilla charge. At this time, viz., 1887, it was desired to incorporate, which was done. John Theobald, W. A. Theobald, Joseph Slagg, John H. Huffman and C. C. Gleiser being the incorporators and becoming the first trustees under the new incorporation. Rev. W. M. Dudley was the next pastor, remaining two years and succeeding him was Rev. R. E. Carter for two years. Preaching had been maintained at Pleasant Hill and in 1891 a neat little church was erected and it has remained a part of the Manilla charge. The next pastor was Rev. A. F. Conrey, who served three years and was succeeded by Rev. Lewis Bradford for two years. Then

follow Rev. P. C. Stire one year, Rev. D. A. Allen two years, and Rev. Joseph Stephen two years. In 1895 Rev. Myron Cable was appointed to Manilla charge and served four years. An interesting event of this pastorate was a home-coming day, which was not only a pleasant occasion, but resulted in the preparation of a neat booklet containing the names of all official bodies and a complete roster of the membership of the church. Next came Rev. A. R. Grant, who served one year and following him the present pastor, Rev. G. F. Cannon.

The Methodist Episcopal Church at Manilla has kept pace with the growing town. The church building and parsonage are a credit to the church and town and the membership has increased proportionately and it is a strong factor in conserving the moral interests of the town and community.

The appointment at West Side was a part of the Denison charge in its beginning and the first sermon was preached there by the Rev. Benjamin Shinn in the Chicago & Northwestern depot in the year 1865. In August, 1876, the lot for the church as it now stands was purchased and the church built in 1879. In the year 1869 the West Side appointment became a charge and Rev. Benjamin Shinn was the first pastor, serving one year. Succeeding him was Rev. Baker for one year, then W. W. Glanville, who seems to have stayed part of a year and he was followed by Rev. S. A. Terrell for three years. In 1874 came Rev. H. Bailey, who with Rev. J. H. Rockwell supplied the charge during 1874 and 1875. In the fall of 1875 came G. M. Curl for two years, Henry Brown three years, C. B. Winter one year, W. W. Cook three years, E. C. Warren one year, E. S. Kinner and T. E. Carter, each one year. H. K. Hastings came in 1887 for three years followed by Bennett Mitchell for three more and W. W. Brown for two years and J. J. Gardner and W. A. Richards also for two years each. Alfred James came in the year 1900 for one year. He was succeeded by Rev. W. J. Todd who served four years and under his pastorate the appointments at West Side and Vail were consolidated. He was succeeded by Rev. Norman McCay, and he by E. M. Cathcart, each with two years' service followed by J. J. Davis one year and in the fall of 1910 Rev. J. G. Waterman, the present pastor, was appointed.

Unfortunately for Methodism in Crawford county, the Northwest Iowa conference was cut out of the territory of the Des Moines conference and the dividing line instead of following county boundaries, cuts through Crawford county along the north line of Hayes, East Boyer and Denison townships, putting West Side, Vail, Deloit and Charter Oak in a different conference with different relations and different conference institutions. This has been detrimental so far as the county has been concerned, as there has of necessity been less cohesion and fewer interests in common and consequently less acquaintance and smaller opportunity for mutual helpfulness. The church at West Side has prospered these years and now is exerting a most helpful influence in the town and community.

No record is at hand of the beginnings at Vail. The church seems to have been organized there and a pastor appointed in 1872. The charter members were Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Bennett, J. E. Palmer and H. Baker. The church as it now is was built in 1881. The first pastor was Rev. Solomon Terrill, 1872 to 1874. After him in the following order came H. D. Bailey, 1874; R. W. Thorn-

burg, 1875; J. W. Spangler, 1877, T. M. Anderson, 1879; D. L. Thompson, 1881; also A. A. Shessler, 1881; W. J. Gardner, 1882; J. N. Mills, 1884; G. E. Stump, 1886; H. W. L. Mahood, 1887; O. K. Maynard, 1888; S. M. Davis, 1889; S. L. Eddy, 1890; D. P. Day, 1893; Thomas Martindale, 1894; I. A. Bartholomew, 1896; Thomas Maxwell, 1897; G. L. Eaton, 1899; H. E. Bowman, 1900; Albrook, 1901. From this date Vail and West Side became one charge and as was noted in the sketch of West Side, Rev. W. J. Todd was the first pastor of the charge combining the two appointments and their subsequent history is as one charge.

In its earlier history West Side was blessed with a very able and eloquent local preacher in the person of John Pendray, whose influence is no doubt still an active factor in the church there.

At the time Denison was made a station Deloit and Vail seem to have joined hands and for a number of years belonged to the same charge. Seven pastors in all served during this union, which included also Milford center. Rev. Baker was the first pastor for one year, then follow Terrill, Thornburg, Spangler, Shessler, Anderson and Gordon. In 1883 the Deloit church was built, and in 1884 Deloit with Boyer became the charge. The first pastor was Rev. G. Young, then Rev. Thompson, each one year, then Rev. J. M. Dudley for three years, the then time limit. He was succeeded by W. R. Martin, who served two years as did also Rev. E. R. Mahood and O. M. Howell. Rev. Griggs served but one year. In 1896 Rev. George C. Clift came and served four years and perfected the plans for the church at Boyer, which was built in 1900. Following Rev. Clift, are P. H. Weston, Thomas Maxwell, a Crawford county boy, and S. C. Olds, each one year; then F. P. Morgan, T. S. Stone and G. W. Bruce, each two years. The next pastor was Rev. A. A. Howe, who served one year, and he was succeeded by Rev. J. R. Crombie and he by the present pastor, Rev. Wahl.

This is briefly an outline of the history of Deloit and Boyer and in part of Vail Methodist churches. The record must remain silent concerning the labor and struggle which make the interesting story and which are as the meat of the sandwich.

The names of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bennett of Vail, the Gables and Inghrams at Milford Center, Snells, Morrisises, McKims, Newtons and others at Deloit, and B. F. Ells, Flemings, Smith and others at Boyer are the pledge of faithful and consecrated service and also of the prosperous condition of the charge.

The Charter Oak Methodist Church is the only one in Crawford county that did not spring directly or indirectly from the original planting in Mason's Grove. The church was first organized there in 1886. Services had been held previously for some time in a schoolhouse by the Rev. J. M. Dudley, who was then living at Mapleton. In the spring of 1887 the services were moved to the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway depot and later in the same year the church was built. Among the organizers of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Charter Oak were Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Criswell, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Shumaker, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Duesler and others. The first regular pastor after the church was organized was Rev. M. H. Montgomery. He was followed by Rev. J. H. Ray and he by Rev. W. M. Edgar. E. T. Fegtly succeeded him and was followed

by W. W. Brown. Rev. Brown held a very successful revival meeting. He succeeded in securing the help of George D. Elderkin, the noted singer, composer and hymn writer, who with his wife literally sang people into the kingdom of heaven. This was a most noted revival and helpful to the church and community as well. This occurred during the winter of 1895 and 1896. The prosperity of the church required more room and it was enlarged and improved during this pastorate. Rev. Brown was followed by Thomas Carson, J. L. Gillies, J. J. Bushnell, E. Robbins, S. D. Johnson, A. J. Barkley and E. M. Cathcart, the present pastor, catalogues the names of the pastors and the order of their service.

In 1891 the parsonage was also enlarged, making with the church a fine property valued at about five thousand dollars. A list of the pastors covering a period of sixteen or eighteen years is the merest outline of the actual history of the Charter Oak church. Something of its inner life may be understood from the things accomplished. Denison, Sioux City and other places have been enriched by the Christian families, which have gone out of the Charter Oak Church and Miss Mamie Glassburner, a missionary to China, is a product of Charter Oak Methodism. The church is still there and who knows what the further harvest may be.

The Ladies' Aid Society which has been an important adjunct of the Methodist church was founded in 1889, with Mrs. Edgar, wife of the pastor as president, Mrs. O. M. Criswell, vice-president, Mrs. George Knight, secretary. The society has been a great help to the church, both socially and financially, and its members have always been found ready and willing in every department of the church. The membership has steadily increased until there are now thirty-four names enrolled, nearly all active members. The officers are: Mrs. William Wilson, president; Mrs. A. Leeper, vice-president; Mrs. D. A. Waterhouse, secretary; Mrs. S. Lyon, treasurer. The president is very ably assisted in all social affairs by a committee of three ladies: Mrs. H. H. Sturges, Mrs. B. Weed and Mrs. E. H. Weed. At present the society is busily engaged in rounding money to help free the church from debt, and it is hoped that the property will be clear of indebtedness during this year.

A helpmeet indeed has been the ladies' organizations of the church. Every church society named in this chapter has a Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. Sometime early in the seventies a foreign missionary society was formed in Denison, but for some reason was not maintained; but in May, 1882, Miss Elizabeth Pearson of Des Moines reorganized the society in Denison and at the same time organized one in Dow City, and both have continued active and strong until this time. Very early in the history of the church at Charter Oak the foreign society was organized, as it was also at Manilla and West Side.

Home missionary societies have been organized at Charter Oak, Dow City and Denison, and West Side, Denison, Charter Oak and Manilla have ladies' aid societies, and this society is the one particularly organized to meet the needs of the local situation. In Charter Oak and West Side, the ladies' aid societies have been an important factor in church finance for the expenses of the home church.

The presidents of this society in Denison have been Mrs. R. A. Romans, Mrs. U. G. Johnson, Mrs. Hannah Scriver. Charter Oak has been practically under two presidents, viz., Mrs. O. M. Criswell and Mrs. Charles Robertson.

The missionary societies are particularly effective in reaching the utmost limit of church membership by the character of their organization. In the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, the young ladies are organized into Standard Bearers, the youth into Kings Heralds, and the Juveniles into Little Light Bearers. In the Home Society, after the ladies themselves, are the Queen Esther's, Home Guards and Mothers Jewels.

An essential department of the Methodist church has been the Sunday school. Soon after the organization of this church in Crawford county, that is in June, 1857, a Sunday school was organized at Mason's Grove with George C. King superintendent, and in the winter of 1858 a school was started in Denison. Morris McHenry was elected superintendent and served with the exception of a year by Mr. Hugh McWilliams, till his removal to the farm in 1877. The school at Mason's Grove moved with the church to Deloit, and is still in commission and also a very successful school at Boyer. The school at Denison has continued and is probably the largest school of any denomination in Crawford county. The Denison Methodist Sunday school has been fortunate in its chief officers and continued them long in office. Morris McHenry served almost continually for nearly twenty years and L. M. Shaw, who succeeded him, served for nearly the same length of time with an interregnum of perhaps a year and a half by Prof. Dukes, and resigned when leaving for Des Moines to be inaugurated governor of the state. His successor, Prof. W. C. Van Ness, is now in the harness and bids fair to equal in length of service either of his predecessors.

At Dow City the Sunday school was started as soon as preaching services. Mrs. Susan Comfort was the first superintendent and held Sunday school in her own home, later moving to the schoolhouse and still later to Dow City. It began as a union school, but about 1879 became distinctively Methodist, which was eminently proper, as it had been maintained by the Methodist church and for several years after this was the only Sunday school in Dow City. To Mr. George Rae the Dow City school owes a great debt. During the years of its existence until his death he probably served as many or more years as its superintendent than all others who held that great office, and was a most excellent counsellor and supporter of them all.

At Charter Oak the Sunday school was coincident with preaching, coming sometimes before, sometimes after preaching services. Manilla Methodist church has a fine Sunday school as has also West Side and Vail. At West Side Melvin Smith in the earlier days and later Christine Anderson have been leaders of the Sunday school work.

Soon after the young peoples movement started in the various churches, the Methodist Episcopal church organized for its young people the Epworth League. Chapters were organized almost at once by the young people of Denison, Dow City, Charter Oak, Manilla and West Side and have been successfully maintained. Vail and Deloit churches have also organized and have very enthusiastic chapters at the present time.



Trinity Lutheran Church



Methodist Episcopal Church



Presbyterian Church



Sacred Heart Church

GROUP OF MANILLA CHURCHES

Aside from the visible evidences, the growth of Methodism in Crawford county is authenticated by statistics which follow and which are taken from the conference minutes of the Des Moines and Northwest Iowa conferences for 1910.

Total value of church and parsonage property is \$63,300.

Number of church members is 985.

Number of Sunday school scholars is 1,291.

Members of Epworth League, 208.

Total amount paid 1910 for salaries of pastors and incidental expenses, \$9,175.

Benevolent collections 1910, \$3,286.

The contrast between these figures and the small society of seven people at Mason's Grove in 1857 served by a pastor supported in part by the Missionary Society, tells an eloquent story of patient, self-denying labor and of faith that brings victory.

The writer of this chapter is under obligation to Morris McHenry, who can justly be called the father of Methodism in Crawford county, Thomas Rae, O. M. Criswell, Mr. Browkaw, Mr. Sowles, Mrs. S. D. Newton, Rev. Waterhouse and Rev. Koser for data which could not otherwise have been secured.

THE GERMAN METHODIST CHURCH.

In the early eighties there was in Denison a small band of faithful members of the Methodist church who felt that they would be more at home in their worship if the services were conducted in the German tongue. Through their efforts the services of a German clergyman were secured and services were held every two weeks in the English church. Rev. August Westphal was the first pastor, coming here in 1881, and continuing his ministrations for two years. He lived in Denison but had charge also of a congregation at Ida Grove. He was succeeded by Rev. John A. Lemke, who resided at Ida Grove. His pastorate extended from 1883 to 1885. During the next few years the church was supplied by Rev. Heinrich Schuldt who resided at Odebolt. He removed to Denison in 1888 and remained until September, 1893.

When the English Methodists decided to build a new church their old church edifice was sold to the German Methodists for the nominal sum of \$250.00. Several of the wealthier members of the English church donated this amount and the German Methodists, in May 1890, purchased lots nearly opposite the present high school building and moved the church to that location. Here they remained until 1900, when on March 19, their church edifice on the corner of Main and Church streets was dedicated. The old building and lots were sold to Mr. Ernst Riepan. The lots for the new church were purchased in September, 1899, and the work of building was rapidly pushed. The first contract called for \$4,500, but, later, changes and improvements made the building cost approximately \$1,000 more. In the raising of funds for the building of this church the German congregation was largely aided by their American brethren and by the citizens of the town generally. Later a parsonage costing \$1,400 was erected so that the organization has property valued at about \$8,500.

Among the earlier members of the church were the families of John Peters, Arnold Bachman, F. Heiden, M. Hugg, J. Weiss, and John Helsley. Among the first trustees were L. M. Shaw, J. B. Romans, Fritz Heiden, E. Gulick, and M. Hugg. To-day this is one of the most devout and faithful of the Denison congregations. A Sunday School is maintained over which Mr. John Schnoor is superintendent and its members feel that the church serves a double purpose, that of administering to their spiritual needs and that of perpetuating their mother tongue. Since 1893, the list of pastors is as follows: Rev. H. F. Loemker, 1893-1895; Rev. G. C. Claussen, 1895-1902; Rev. A. W. Gauger, 1902-1906; Rev. Gottlob E. Kienle, 1906-1908; Rev. Otto E. Johnson, 1908-1909; Rev. C. E. Schoenleber, 1909-1911.

PRESBYTERIANISM IN CRAWFORD COUNTY.

The Presbyterian Church has four churches in Crawford county, viz.: at Denison, Vail, Manilla and Charter Oak. The first organization was formed at Denison. On March 14, 1871, Rev. R. Burgess, a missionary of the Presbytery of Missouri River organized the First Presbyterian Church of Denison with the following as Charter Members: Thomas Luney, Samuel Luney, William Luney, James Luney, James Smyth and Samuel B. Smyth. The first meeting was held in the Court House. Rev. Burgess supplied the field although the church did not have a settled pastor. In the spring of 1872 Rev. W. H. McCloskey became the first pastor. During his ministry the little church grew in numbers and a beginning was made towards securing a suitable building. A site was procured and the first building erected on the corner of S. Main and E. Vine St. at a cost of about \$2,500. In the summer of 1874 Rev. McCloskey resigned and was followed by Rev. Henry Carroll who began his work in the fall of that year. October 29, 1874, the first church building was dedicated. Rev. W. J. Moffat became the pastor in the autumn of 1876, continuing as such until the spring of 1878 when Rev. W. A. Ward became pastor. During all these years the church enjoyed a healthy growth and the efforts of the faithful pastors were graciously rewarded. The members by sacrifice and personal work nobly supported the work. Rev. Ward removed from Denison to South Dakota in 1879 and was followed in 1880 by Rev. Thos. C. Potter during whose ministry the church enjoyed a season of unprecedented growth and progress. All too soon, in August of 1881, Rev. Potter on account of ill health, was forced to resign the pastorate and now came a period of discouragement and hardship. Temporary supplies were had in the persons of Revs. J. Jas. Rankin, J. T. Hopkins and W. O. Thompson. With the coming of Rev. Henry McMeekin in 1883 the church revived and during his pastorate discouragement gave way to hope and the church again began to grow and flourish. Rev. McMeekin closed his pastorate in 1885 and was followed by the Rev. Willis G. Banker. His ministry was very fruitful and under his splendid leadership all the departments of the church were reorganized and enlarged. In March of 1888 Rev. Eugene Hamilton became the pastor and continued the work until the spring of 1890 when on account of failing health he was forced to resign. Rev. Nathaniel Clark was the next pastor coming in May of 1890 and continuing until January of 1896. Rev. Clark was a man of exemplary piety and strong character and



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CHARTER OAK

his influence left an impress upon the whole community which is felt until this day. In April of 1896 Rev. Ashbel G. Martyn came to the church and under his faithful and efficient labors the church grew so that the little church became too small and plans were made to enlarge. The old site, being undesirable, was sold and a new location procured on the corner of S. Sweet and E. Chestnut St. Here the present commodious building was erected in 1897 and dedicated January 2, 1898, at a cost of about \$12,000. In September of 1903 Rev. Martyn left Denison and Rev. J. H. Sharpe became stated Supply for one year. Rev. W. E. Bryce became the pastor in 1904 and remained until July, 1907. Rev. Bryce was one of the strongest men to fill the pulpit. He was a faithful pastor, an earnest preacher of the Word, a sincere Christian man and with deep regret the church relinquished him that he might accept a call to larger work in Ashland, O. In November of 1907 Rev. J. Jas. DePree was called to the pastorate of this church and has since filled the pulpit. In October of 1910 a new and modern manse was finished at a cost of \$6,000 and the church now has one of the best properties in Crawford county. During all the years of its life the church has enjoyed the blessing of God's Grace and Spirit and has grown from very small beginnings to a strong well organized body, having at the present time a membership of 217. All the work is well supported and the untiring effort of the faithful pastors, especially those of the early days, has borne fruit. There were periods of discouragement and difficulty but steady progress was made. The church today has the following departments: Sabbath School, Prof. E. W. Fellows, Supt.; Ladies' Home and Foreign Missionary Society, Mrs. Jacob Sims, Pres.; Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. Jennie Armstrong Pres.; Christian Society, Miss Helen Trexel, Pres.; Prof. E. W. Fellows, W. D. Luney, Chas. McWilliams, Sears McHenry, Dr. R. O. McConnaughey and W. E. Terry are the present elders. Mr. Jacob Sims, W. E. Terry, R. O. McConnaughey, Geo. Davis, John Mount, G. Fred North and Geo. R. Richardson compose the board of trustees. The present pastor Rev. J. J. DePree is a man of ability and eloquence and of great force of character. He is doing much towards making the Presbyterian church a strong and vital influence in the community.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CHARTER OAK.

The first Presbyterian church of Charter Oak was organized in January, 1895. On invitation of Mr. F. L. Shoemaker, Mr. L. W. Steele, a Lay Evangelist, visited the field and reported that prospects were good. On January 15, 1895, a petition was circulated asking for the organization of the church. This was granted and in September of the same year Rev. H. Hostettler, Rev. A. H. Campbell, Rev. N. Clark and Elder Samuel Luney of Denison, were appointed by the Presbytery as a committee to organize the new church. They visited Charter Oak, October 8, 1895, holding the first meeting in the Odd Fellows hall. The church was organized with the following charter members: Mrs. Priscilla Snyder, Mrs. Alice Cooper, L. R. McGee, W. H. Bates and wife, Miss Bates, Alice Bates, Frank Bates, Stella Adams, Jessie Adams, Mrs. Routzoug, W. F. Miller and wife, C. F. Garrett, J. J. McWilliams, Ada McWilliams, D. H. McWilliams, Mary McWilliams. The church was called the First Presbyterian in Charter Oak and J. J. McWilliams was elected the first ruling elder. The first

pastor was Rev. Steele and services were held in various halls and homes until 1898 when a handsome church building was erected at an expense of \$3,200. This church was dedicated by Rev. Dr. Bailey, Dec. 11, 1898.

The history of the church has been one of many hardships and tribulations. For many years a cloud of indebtedness hung over the congregation and it was difficult to obtain and support regular pastors. At one time the proposition was seriously considered of selling the church to the Lutheran congregation, but this plan was not adopted and the members rallied to the support of the church and all indebtedness was paid.

The list of pastors is as follows: Reverends Steele, McEwen, Lind, Thom, Hienk, Turner, then followed several years when the pulpit was occupied by supplies sent from Omaha. In 1910, Rev. Baker took charge and the present pastor is Rev. A. E. Lehmann. The membership of the church is but 16. A Ladies' Club is a valuable auxilliary. The present trustees are G. S. Waterhouse, A. F. Barber, D. H. McWilliams, B. L. Wright, Albert Snyder. These men are working together for the upbuilding of their favorite church. The pastor is proving indefatigable in his efforts and as the load of debt has been removed, the members have reason to believe that a new era has dawned for them and that the church will now proceed to a period of spiritual and material growth.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

Manilla.

The First Presbyterian church of Manilla which is one of the strongest and best housed churches of that city is a direct descendant of the Fairview Union Sabbath School, organized May 2, 1880, at the Barber school house, three miles north of the present town of Manilla. Mr. S. M. Neely, T. J. Campbell, and R. Barber were the leading spirits in this organization. The Sunday school continued for 5 years with preaching services at rare intervals. July 27, 1885, Rev. W. G. Banker, pastor of the Presbyterian church of Denison, visited this field and established regular preaching services. A church was organized February 21, 1886, with the following charter members: Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Neely, Elizabeth Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Andree, Mr. and Mrs. Levi Alfred, Mrs. Lewis Alfred, Mr. and Mrs. Levi Mills, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Campbell, Mrs. G. Flint, Lizzie Neely, Chas. Neely, Mary Barber, Catherine Brown and Mary Wallace.

S. M. Neely and W. H. Andree were the first elders of the church. Rev. W. J. Banker was succeeded by Rev. A. W. Thomson, and Fairview was grouped with the Manning church. The rapid growth of Manilla during the year 1886, urged the advisability of establishing the church in that city. The members favored this arrangement, and the first services were held in February, 1886, in the furniture store of Thew Bros. Improvised seats, arranged by placing boards across boxes and barrels, were provided. The first sermon was preached by Rev. W. J. Banker. The need for a church building was at once felt, and Mr. Neely was appointed as solicitor, collector and building committee. As a school building was also needed, it was agreed that the church should allow the schools to use the building free for one year. The Milwaukee railroad land

company presented the lot upon which the church was built. Much of the labor was also donated, and the first services were held in April, 1887. The first trustees of the Manilla church were, S. M. Neely, Lee Alfred, and T. J. Campbell. Mr. A. S. Avary was secretary and treasurer. The list of pastors is as follows: Rev. W. G. Banker, Rev. A. W. Thompson, Rev. W. C. Paden, Rev. A. J. Burnett, Rev. M. E. Krotzer. In 1894 the Manilla church was made an independent organization. Rev. John R. Jones was the first pastor of the independent church. He was followed by Rev. J. H. Carpenter, Rev. Robt. Tweed, Rev. T. W. Malcolm, Rev. A. J. McMurtry. The old church served its purposes until 1896, when a new building was erected at a cost of \$5,000, and was dedicated free of debt Jan. 12, 1896. The church has a seating capacity of 700, is fitted with modern heating and lighting apparatus. The handsome manse is located south of the church and is also free from debt. The pastors succeeding Rev. McMurtry were Rev. U. S. Lacey, Rev. James Sweeney, who died after but a short pastorage, Rev. A. McD. McIntosh, who is the present pastor. The present officers are: Trustees, R. C. Jackson, Frank Brown, John Calvin, Geo. Naseworth, Chas. Sykes, John McLaren, Clayton Baker, Wm. Theobald.

Members of session: N. S. Neely, J. P. Barber, I. B. Alfred, Wm. Flint, Dr. E. McLaren, and Henry John.

Superintendent of Sabbath school I. B. Alfred; President Y. P. S. C. E., Dr. E. McLaren; Ladies Aid Society, Mrs. Frank Brown; Foreign Mission society, Mrs. W. B. Leggett; Guild society, Mrs. I. B. Alfred; Westminster Circle, Miss Lillian Saunders.

The church is in excellent condition with a large and increasing membership and is a great power for good.

GUILD SOCIETY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Manilla, Iowa.

By Mrs. Henry N. Jahn.

The first meeting of the Guild Society of the Presbyterian church was held at the home of Miss Mattie Buffington on October 6, 1905, at which time the organization was perfected with the following charter members: Miss Mattie Buffington; Mesdames J. F. Carnahan, L. A. Carnahan, William Goddard, Dr. Liggett, Cicero Morgan, W. S. Moore, Rae Sutton, Fred Schram, Misses Anna and Millie Jahn, and Miss Blanche Packard. The present membership numbers nineteen, one member, Mrs. B. H. Doty, having been called to her final reward.

The efforts of the society have been directed largely toward the proper furnishing of the church in which they have met with marked success, having purchased an auxiliary pipe organ and an individual communion set, besides many other incidentals for the use of the church. The present officers are: Mrs. W. S. Moore, president; Mrs. I. B. Alfred, vice-president; Mrs. Henry Jahn, secretary; Mrs. Cicero Morgan, treasurer; and Mrs. Dr. Liggett, chaplain.

VAIL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

By Rev. H. Hostettler.

The Presbyterian church was brought into the eastern part of Crawford county by Dr. James DeWolf and his family who, in the fall of 1870, became

the first bona fide settlers of the town of Vail. Dr. DeWolf was born a Vermont Congregationalist, but in early life he and his father's family came in contact with Presbyterianism near LeRaysville, Pa. The doctor had his training in two Presbyterian Academies at Hartford, Pa., and Grand River Institute in Ohio. Some years after his marriage at Terrytown, Pa., he removed to near Mt. Carroll, Ill., and later to Clarence, Iowa, where he had helped to establish a Presbyterian church. The doctor had acquired a pioneer's love for laying the foundations of communities and in coming to Vail he had clearly defined ideas of what a well ordered town should have. The first schoolhouse was completed in Vail during the fall of 1871, a small frame building now standing on lot 4, block 5, owned by Miss Anna S. DeWolf and used as a drug store by Mr. G. E. Dingeman.

In the new schoolhouse the little community started the new year of 1872, by organizing a Sabbath School on its first Sabbath, January 7th. Dr. James DeWolf was elected the first superintendent and continued in that position until January, 1890, when at his own request he was allowed to retire from this active responsibility. That first Sunday School was made up of all who could be induced to attend. There were Episcopalians, Lutherans, Methodists, Catholics and Presbyterians. There were Irish, English, Norwegians, Swedes and some of American birth. There were twenty present the first Sabbath and their names deserve a place in this record: M. H. Smith, W. R. Miller, James DeWolf, Giles Brink, Robert Crisp, John Dewyer, Swan Nelson, William Ahlstrand, Richard Woods, Francis Woods, Joseph Gracy, John H. DeWolf, Mrs. M. H. Miller, Mrs. M. H. Smith, Mrs. Anna H. DeWolf, Miss Anna Tempest, Miss Mary E. DeWolf and Anna S. DeWolf. Of the attendants at the first session Francis Woods is the only one now residing in Vail. His brothers, Richard Woods and James, later moved to Baker City, Oregon. Joseph Gracy was a young man in their employ. M. H. Smith was the first postmaster of Vail and with his family later moved to Tacoma, Wash., where he has since died. Miss Anna Tempest, later the wife of Dr. E. L. Colborn, now lives at Beloit, Wis. Giles Brink now lives at Plymouth, Neb. Swan Nelson later died at Odebolt, Iowa. W. R. Miller now lives in Ohio. Mrs. M. H. Miller later moved to Caldwell, Idaho. John Dewyer was a young Irishman who worked for M. H. Miller and often complained it made his head ache to read the new testament.

The other officers of the school were W. H. Smith, assistant superintendent; John H. DeWolf, secretary and librarian. During the first year as many as eighty-four names appeared on the roll of attendants though some were present but a single Sabbath. The summary of this first year's Sabbath School work shows an average daily attendance of 25.62; average number of bible verses recited, 31.8; contributions per sabbath, 60 cents. The largest attendance was 34 during the month of August and the smallest was during February when the average was but thirteen.

The second year's work of this school began with an anniversary celebration held January 5, 1873. The same persons acted as superintendent and assistant, but the other officers were George W. DeWolf, secretary; Fred K. Forrest, Jr., librarian, and Miss Mary E. DeWolf, treasurer. This Sabbath School has con-

tinued without interruption to the present time. It met in the schoolhouse till it was transferred to the Presbyterian church in 1878. The Episcopalians organized their own school in 1874 or 1875, and the Methodist Episcopal church school was organized out of it January 1, 1882. The remaining portion of this school was thereafter known as the Presbyterian school. The attendance during 1885 averaged about fifty-seven. After the organization of the Denison Presbyterian church its minister preached occasionally for the Vail people. There were occasional services conducted also by Rev. George R. Carroll, who was superintendent of missions for northwestern Iowa and Dakota. These services were well attended and indicated a desire for a Presbyterian church.

June 14, 1873, a petition was signed by fourteen persons expressing the belief that the church of Christ in its organized capacity is the great instrument through which God is pleased to work in elevating, blessing and saving the world and asking for the organization of a Presbyterian church, to which they pledged their cordial support. The next day, June 15th, Rev. Henry Carroll of Chicago, Ill., preached a sermon at 10:30 a. m., after which Rev. George R. Carroll organized these fourteen persons into the Presbyterian church of Vail, under the care of the Presbytery of Fort Dodge. These charter members were James DeWolf, Anna H. DeWolf, Mary E. Strong, George W. DeWolf, John H. DeWolf, Mrs. Elizabeth Maxwell, Mrs. Anna Maxwell, James Bremner, Margaret K. Bremner, Sarah A. Powers, John F. Powers, A. D. Young, Mrs. A. D. Young and Thomas Maxwell. By the vote of these members, Dr. James DeWolf and A. D. Young were chosen ruling elders, both having previously served in the same capacity in the church at Clarence, Iowa. Mr. Young was chosen as session clerk.

Of these charter members Dr. James DeWolf and his wife, Anna H. DeWolf, have died and both are buried in the Vail cemetery. Their daughter, Anna S. DeWolf, is still a member of the Vail church and resides at Denison. Their daughter, Mrs. Mary E. Strong, with her family are members of the church at Broken Bow, Neb. Their son, John H. DeWolf, is a member of the Hyde Park Presbyterian church, Chicago, Ill., and George W. DeWolf is a member of the Presbyterian church at Gibbon, Neb. Thomas Maxwell, his wife, Elizabeth Maxwell, and his mother, Anna Maxwell, all have died. This family is represented in the present Vail church by their daughter, Sadie, wife of James H. Bremner. This family has also contributed to the present membership of the Denison Presbyterian church three daughters, Mrs. Maria North, Mrs. Anna Albert and Mrs. Maggie Tucker. James Bremner and his wife, Margaret Bremner, have passed to the reward of their labors and are represented in the present membership of the church by their son, James H. Bremner. Their daughter, Mrs. Mary McCorkindale, is a member of the Presbyterian church at Odebolt, Iowa. John F. Powers died some years since at Hay Springs, Neb., and his wife, Sarah A. Powers, was living recently in very feeble health with her daughter, Miss Fannie Moulton, in New York City, N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Young later withdrew from the church and joined the Plymouth Brethren. Neither are now living.

Rev. W. H. McCusky of Denison, now of Hopkinton, Iowa, preached for the church during 1873 and 1874, and added four to the membership of the

church. The session records previous to February, 1876, were lost, but a few notes appear in the session book that give the substance of what was done. In 1875 the church appears for the first time in the General Assembly minutes with eighteen members and supplied by Rev. Thomas A. Shaver, now of Chadbourn, N. C., but who at that time lived at Glidden, Iowa. The church at this time was making plans to secure a church building as a newspaper item states that on September 10, 1875, a festival held by the ladies netted \$76.50 for a new church building. Mr. Shaver supplied the church also during a part of the year 1876 and during his ministry seven members were added to the church. During the summer of 1876, Rev. William J. Moffatt of Denison, began a year's supply of the pulpit. In spite of the hardships of the grasshopper scourge the church persisted in its plans for a church edifice. In order to hold property under the state laws it was necessary to incorporate the church society. This was done March 24, 1877, when John F. Powers, Richard Woods and James DeWolf signed articles of incorporation and acted as the first trustees of the society. Mr. Powers was chosen secretary of the trustees June 9, 1877.

Soon after this a subscription paper was circulated and by September 29th, of the same year, enough funds had been subscribed to warrant the trustees in advertising for bids for the erection of a building. The contract for doing the carpenter work was let to Adam Baker for \$150, as the church had the opportunity for buying material at cost price. In October, 1877, the church trustees purchased lot 10 in block 10 from John H. DeWolf. December 28, 1877, in order to secure a grant of \$400 for the church erection fund of the church, the trustees gave a mortgage on the church lot and building. This mortgage does not stand as a claim against the property as long as it is used for church purposes. Soon after this the building was sufficiently completed to be used for service. Rev. William A. Ward of Denison, but now of River Falls, Wis., began early in 1878 a two years' service as stated supply. There remained the task of collecting all the money that had been subscribed and to secure funds for furnishings. The grasshopper scourge was particularly severe during the year and money was hard to get. But the church building was finally finished, appropriately furnished with pews, pulpit chairs, carpet, organ and chandeliers and on Sabbath, the eleventh day of May, 1879, dedicated to the worship of the living God. Rev. George R. Carroll and Rev. A. K. Baird conducted the services. The cost of the lot, building, and pews was \$1751.08. The ladies of the church raised \$157.50 for furnishings, and paid \$125 for a bell. At the time of dedication there was owing on the building \$43.18 for which the church had subscriptions for the amount of \$60.

As this was the first church edifice in the town, contributions were made by persons of all creeds and no creed, by those living in the town and vicinity as well as by many living in Denison. In the heading of the subscription there was an agreement that when the building was not in use for Presbyterian services it could be used by other churches. This subscription list bears eloquent testimony to the diligence with which it was circulated and the generosity of many who were willing to give even out of their poverty.

The two years of Rev. William A. Ward's service were fruitful not only in securing the completion of the church building but also in the addition of twenty-



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
DENISON



BAPTIST CHURCH, DENISON



LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL AND PARSONAGE, DENISON

five members to the roll of the church. His ministry is still mentioned with pleasure by many who recall his labors.

After the departure of Mr. Ward the church was vacant for some months till the coming to Denison of Rev. Thomas C. Potter, now of Doylestown, Pa. He had completed his seminary studies in the spring of 1880, and came soon after to Denison, and arranged to supply that church and the church at Vail for a year from July, 1880. The Vail church was so well pleased with his services that in March, 1881, it voted to call him as pastor, and allow him to give half his time to the Denison church. Plans were also made to have him reside in Vail if a suitable house could be secured. Before the close of the year however his health broke down from overwork and he was compelled to give up the ministry for several years and engage in business. He made his home for some time in Vail where his brief ministry had been blessed with the addition of twelve members to the church. He was succeeded by Rev. Robert T. Pressly, of Hersman, Ill., who supplied the church from July, 1881, to January, 1882. He was the first resident minister. The church rented for him the house owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Scott. This house still stands on the lot immediately west of the church, across the street. The rent of the house was to be nine dollars per month on condition that the house was to be sided and painted. Mr. Pressly was not in robust health and has since died.

Rev. Simeon C. Head, who later died in the state of Washington, has the distinction of being the first minister to serve the church as installed pastor. He was also the first to occupy the manse which was erected during his pastorate. Thirty members were added to the church during his ministry which began February 26, 1882, and continued for two years. In September, 1881, the church had purchased lots two and three in block eighteen for manse purposes. These lots were fenced the following spring and trees set about them and also about the church lot. The congregation at a meeting held June 1, 1882, decided to build a parsonage and those in attendance subscribed \$760, payable in three annual installments. In order to secure funds with which to pay the contractors, the trustees borrowed \$800 from Mr. Seneca B. Strong, of Canaan, Conn. The contract was let September 16, 1882, to Bouldron and Maxwell for \$1,355, and the house was ready for use shortly after January 1, 1883. The following summer a barn was built upon the lot. It required several years to complete the payments on the manse which was finally accomplished without assistance from the church erection fund.

The next minister was Rev. Harvey Hostettler who was ordained in this church October 14, 1884. He began his ministry June 21, 1884, and closed Jan. 5, 1890, on which last date the session records state "It is with deep regret that our church parts with him, whom not the church only, but the community, far and near have learned to love.." He was the first minister to be ordained in the church and also officiated in the first church wedding, when, December 23, 1884, he joined in marriage Mr. George W. DeWolf and Miss Eva Gilman, both members of the church. He came to the church when it was well equipped with a house of worship and manse. During his ministry a cistern was built, sidewalks laid, and horse sheds erected. This last improvement was the means of increasing very largely the attendance of families from the surrounding

country. The town had passed the period of its rapid growth and efforts were made to build up the congregation from the country. A Sabbath School was organized and a preaching point started in the Nelson schoolhouse in Jackson township in the summer of 1884. These services were later moved to the Center schoolhouse in the same township. These services continued for about twenty-five years. Many German families have come into this township, and these now have services from the minister of the German Presbyterian church in the adjoining county. He also organized a Sunday School and Young People's meeting in the church at Arcadia which he supplied with afternoon preaching. In the summer of 1889, he organized a Sunday School in the Brockelsby schoolhouse in Hays township, where he preached Sunday afternoon after coming from Arcadia. He organized a Young People's society which later became a society of Christian Endeavor, and is still in existence. His ministry had added ninety-one members to the church when he closed his labors to accept the call of the Second church of Sioux City. During his temporary residence in Denison he has supplied the Vail church since June, 1909.

During the summer of 1890, the church was supplied by John R. Tewell, a student who endeared himself to the people during his short stay. He later died at Flint, Mich. He was succeeded by Rev. George H. Fracker, now for nearly twenty years a professor in Buena Vista College at Storm Lake, Iowa. Rev. David W. Cassett, now of Corning, Iowa, was the pastor from Nov. 17, 1891, to June, 1895, and his ministry was fruitful in the addition of fifty-two members to the church. The failure of the Citizens bank in 1893 made the hard times of that period, very trying, and it required heroic effort on the part of pastor and people to maintain the church services. After his departure the church for two years was supplied by two students from Omaha Theological seminary, Rev. Leland C. McEwen, now of Kearney, Neb., and Rev. Frederick H. Grace, now of Wichita, Kas. Their labors placed eighteen members on the church roll.

Rev. Austin M. Tanner began a year's ministry October, 1898, a ministry blessed in the reception of thirty-three members, the largest number that have come into the church during any year of its history. Mr. Tanner died at Ridott, Ill., December, 1910. He was followed for a year by Rev. William A. Pinkerton, now of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, licentiates James D. Sweeney, who later died at Manilla, Iowa, and William J. Cresswell, now of Ireton, Iowa. During the service of the latter from 1903 to 1906, the church building was remodeled, by the addition of a lecture room, changing the entrance from the east to the west end of the building and the placing of a furnace in the basement. His ministry added eighteen members to the church. He was succeeded by Richard Pughe, now of North Bend, Wis., who closed his labors January, 1909, after a three years' service which added thirty-two members to the church.

The following men have served the church as ruling elders: Dr. James DeWolf, A. D. Young, Thomas C. Potter, A. L. Strong, Fred J. Edgar, Wilson Bowman, George R. Shove, George W. DeWolf, William Fleming, James F. Fleming, Benjamin L. King, James M. C. North, A. Milligan, George W. Sherwood, Robert Hannah, Ben Wahlin and W. E. Mason, the last four named constituting the present session.

The following have served as church trustees: Dr. James DeWolf, Richard Woods, John F. Powers, John Short, A. L. Strong, John H. DeWolf, George W. DeWolf, M. H. Miller, John Thomson, John Spitzbarth, D. Tempest, Robert Hannah, Adam Short, Francis Woods, Robert Bell, Fred North, Frank Crouch, John Byland, William E. Liddle, Frank Etzel, William F. Shove, Ben White, E. O. Theim, Ben Wahlin, James K. Bremner, John Nelson, William Marshall, W. E. Mason, Willis Mason, A. H. Seaburn, J. L. Streby and William Bouldron.

The Sunday School has had the following superintendents: Dr. James DeWolf, John H. DeWolf, William E. Liddle, George W. DeWolf, G. W. Sherwood and Miss Manetta Jorgenson.

The ladies of the church have always had an active organization for the support of the church, and each year have made contributions for the support of the pastor as well as making needed improvements and repairs on the church property. During the past year the ladies have provided for cement walks about the church, the interior has been freshly painted and stained glass windows give the church a very neat and attractive appearance. The ladies have also maintained a society for the study and support of home and foreign missions, now and for many years under the presidency of Mrs. John Thomson.

Since about 1882 there have been organizations among the children, such as Buds of Promise Mission Band, children's prayer meeting and Junior Endeavor, which last organization is still doing excellent work in training the young people for the work of the church. The music of the church has for many years had the efficient leadership of Miss Margaret Short.

One is led to ask as to the results accomplished by these years of church work, which has always demanded much toil and sacrifice. It is difficult to place a value upon effort that has to do with the shaping of lives or the formation of character. There are today in the church and community at Vail those whose only religious privileges have come from this church. Some of these are the most substantial and helpful members of the church and workers in the Sunday School. Many have gone to other communities and are active in the church of their residence. No one can know the results of the work of a church in restraining those who might otherwise be much worse than they are. But it is interesting to note that the church has during the past thirty-five years reported additions to its membership of three hundred and sixty-seven persons, of which two hundred and thirty-eight were received on confession of their faith in Christ. There have been from fifty to one hundred constantly in its Sunday Schools. The church has raised for its own support over \$24,198, and has given to the various agencies of the church at large, as follows; For Home Missions, \$1,280; foreign missions, \$810; education, \$174; Sunday School work, \$294; church erection, \$220; ministerial relief, \$135; freedmen, \$153; aid for colleges, \$318; and for general assembly purposes, \$324.78, making a total of monies raised for these outside benevolences, \$3,708.78, or a grand total of benevolence and local support, \$27,896.78.

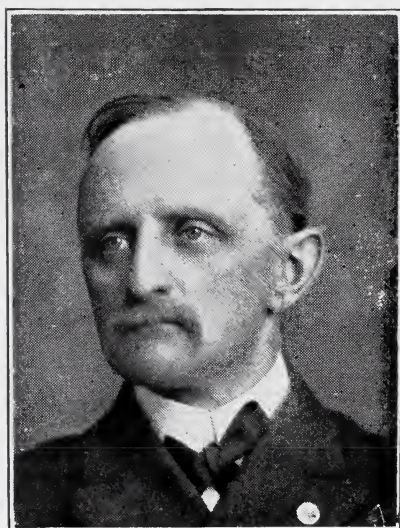
The church has succeeded well in adapting itself to a community made up of many nationalities and creeds. It has received into its communion those who have been reared in Baptist, Catholic, Christian, Congregationalist, Methodist and Lutheran churches. The present membership includes nearly all

in the community who would naturally prefer the Swedish, Danish or German Lutheran churches. The constant removals of members to other places has always made the growth of the church slow. No matter how vigorously and successfully the work was pushed the tide of outward migration has drawn the members elsewhere as fast as they could be gathered in. Protestant families have been leaving and Catholics are taking the places. The immigration of Irish Catholic families was stimulated very much by the efforts of Capt. William Familton who was agent for the sale of railroad lands from the early seventies. He was an active and industrious salesman and brought into the county many of his former neighbors and friends from Clinton county. These settlers from Clinton county have for some years now been giving way before the steady advance of the German population who are crowding in from Carroll county on the east and from Jackson and Hays townships on the north and south. The religious character of the community in the future will depend very largely upon these Germans who are likely to be the permanent occupants of these lands. There will for years to come be a field for the Protestant church in Vail and vicinity and the Presbyterian church, the first in the field, has proven itself well adapted to the work.

THE CRAWFORD COUNTY SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

Recognizing that in union of energies there is strength, many of the Sunday schools of the county have maintained for years an organization. While zealous for their own denomination, yet all members have arisen in spirit to the higher plane, that all groups, working with the bible as the basis of faith, are looking to a common end. The organization has been under the state, nation and international associations, the latter of which gave to the Sunday School world the uniform system of lesson studies. The Crawford county association has now been in existence some twenty years and has reckoned in its ranks of leading workers, Hon. L. M. Shaw, E. S. Plimpton, Morris McHenry, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Pierce, John Richardson, W. C. VanNess, Chas. K. Meyers, U. G. Johnson, F. L. Hoffman, and Rev. J. Jas. DePree. The local work of the association is to introduce the best methods of presenting bible truths to the children, thus leading them to understand the vital principles of the religion of Jesus Christ. With this in view the work has been classified under the following departments: Home, devoted to canvassing the homes to enlist those unable, on account of distance from a school, old age, or sickness, to attend Sabbath schools, to study the lessons each week. House Visitation, whose work is to seek out members for the various schools. Primary, which would encourage the best and most enjoyable way for the children to receive bible instruction. Missionary, which encourages added interest in the great missionary movements of the world. Organized Classes, which would arouse the adult classes to stronger and newer fields of work. Temperance, which in this county has done great work in giving the children an opportunity to sign the total abstinence pledge. Bible Reading, which would put in use a uniform system of bible reading, and Teachers Training, which urges teachers specially trained for the various schools.

With Mrs. E. W. Pierce as secretary the Home department has made much headway and resulted in many in the homes taking renewed interest in studying



CHARLES K. MEYERS

the bible. During his time as county secretary Mr. Chas. K. Meyers made a specialty with large wall pledges and small cards to have the pupils sign the temperance pledge and aided by the various superintendents, one thousand members of the Sunday Schools enrolled their names.

Mr. F. L. Hoffman while secretary was most earnest in holding conventions and making closer organizations, a work in which he proved an expert. Township conventions are held at intervals and a county convention annually.

The report made to the state organization in May, 1911, showed twenty-two schools in the county, having an enrollment of 2,028, with average attendance 1,313. The schools and their superintendents were as follows: City of Denison, Presbyterian, E. W. Fellows; Methodist, W. C. Van Ness; Baptist, Mrs. Etta Plimpton; German Methodist, John Schnoor; Arion, Congregational, N. F. Stilson; Vail, Methodist, Albert Chamberlain; Presbyterian, Manetta Jorgensen; Boyer, Methodist, Jas. D. Fleming; Kiron, Baptist, Chas. Swanson; Free Mission, E. E. Clauson; Manilla, Presbyterian, I. B. Alfred; Methodist, J. C. Dyson; Charter Oak, Methodist, Miss Frances M. Drake; Presbyterian, Mrs. G. S. Waterhouse; Willow Township, Mrs. Jap. Hunter; West Side, Methodist, S. W. Mellott; Denison township, Union school, Coon Grove, Richard Baer; Deloit, Methodist, S. D. Newton; Dow City, Methodist, H. W. Logsdon; Baptist, Wm. Walters; Boyer Mission, Seth Anderson; Astor Union school, Mrs. Wm. Theobald.

The following constitutes the present officers of the county organization: President, Rev. C. E. LaReau, Denison; Vice-president, John Vennink, Manilla; Secretary, Chas. K. Meyers, Denison; Treasurer, Sears McHenry, Denison.

Department secretaries: Home, Mrs. E. W. Pierce, Denison; House Visitation, Mrs. Aggie Nichols, Arion; Primary, Miss Susie Craft, Denison; Missionary, Mrs. J. B. Glassburner, Arion. Organized Classes, Prof. W. C. Van Ness, Denison; Temperance, Mrs. W. T. Huckstep, Deloit; Bible Reading, Mrs. A. H. Harper, Dow City. Teachers' Training, H. W. Logsdon, Dow City. Executive Committee, Frank Woolston, Boyer; Seth Calderwood, West Side; F. L. Hoffman, Denison; F. L. VanSlyke, Manilla; N. F. Stilson, Arion; C. H. Stark, Charter Oak.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

By Rev. Father M. J. Farrelly.

The writer of this chapter proposes to avoid everything of a controverted nature. The history of a church in a given time may stand for the career of the men and women who represented the church, who organized it, who maintained it, who gloried in its progress and wept in its disappointments. The writer has reason to hope that these few pages will be read with interest and profit by many of his coreligionists in the faith and many of his separated brethren. Both have worked together to establish churches, believing in the material and spiritual uplifting of the communities in which they lived.

The history of the Catholic church in Crawford county is a replica of her history in practically every county in this great state of Iowa. Her history

may be told in the classical words of Julius Cæsar, "Veni, Vidi, Vice." She came with the zeal of St. Patrick disembarking on the shores of Ireland. She came with the courage of St. Boniface, dying for the faith in a dense forest of Germany. The church is everywhere mindful that the Master sent her to preach the gospel to every creature, to bring forth fruit that would remain.

THE MISSIONARY PERIOD.

For fifteen years the Catholic church in Crawford county was in a purely missionary stage of development. Rev. Father Kelly and McMinomie from Council Bluffs, Father Moore and Garrihan from Dunlap, Fathers Pope and others from Carroll and further east came here occasionally, bringing the consolations of religion to the Catholic settlers of the county who were then few in number and poor in purse.

Denison, the mother church, did not have a house of worship until the fall of 1872. Divine services were held at the homes of the Catholic families in the old courthouse, and in any place that might be found available for the purpose. The home of Mr. A. D. Moloney could easily at that time shelter the Catholic population of the county. With this family, the missionary priest, weary and footsore, tired and hard pressed, in perils from bad roads and swollen creeks, always found a welcome, a host who took care of him and sent him on his way rejoicing.

Then came Con and Michael Houlihan, Thomas Griffen and Thomas McCarthy, L. J. Carter and Martin Conroy, John O'Connor, John Kelly and I. Hassett. These with the support of a few settlers from Jackson, Soldier and Iowa townships perfected an organization and built Crawford's first Catholic church and dedicated it October 9, 1872.

From 1872-78 the Catholic population grew with leaps and bounds. Rev. R. McGrath, whose residence was at Vail, made regular trips to Denison. He was succeeded by Rev. M. C. Lenihan, now bishop of Great Falls, Montana, who saw the necessity of putting an addition to the first church edifice for the accommodation of a growing congregation.

In the spring of 1886, Rev. B. C. Lenihan was installed as the first Catholic pastor having a permanent home in Denison. In the summer of 1877 he was transferred to Boone, and later to Fort Dodge, being made Vicar General and a Domestic Prelate on the organization of the new diocese of Sioux City.

On the first day of October, 1887, the writer was given charge of this field. 'All credit to the good men who preceded me, I found good material out of which to build up a strong and vigorous church. In 1889, the parochial school was erected. It has been in operation for twenty years and has blessed the congregation with well trained and well instructed Catholic children. At the present writing the Sisters of St. Francis from Clinton, Iowa, have charge of the school work. There are seventy-five pupils in the regular classes. The music pupils number forty.

The present church edifice was erected in 1896, at a cost of \$20,000. It is of brick construction with stone trimmings, 63 by 115 over all; it is well fur-



ST. ROSE OF LIMA CHURCH, DENISON



PARSONAGE OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA CHURCH, DENISON

nished, has oak and walnut pews, stone composition stations of the cross-side, altars with suitable stationary. There is no debt on the church or school, the only incumbrance being on the newly acquired parish residence. This parish has a membership of six hundred souls. There are here several good societies, a Young Ladies Sodality, a Holy Name Society, a Ladies Catholic Order of Foresters, and the K. C.'s; all combine to keep alive the true spirit of religion.

To God and a generous people be all the glory!

VAIL AND WEST SIDE.

Among the early Catholic settlers at Vail may be mentioned here M. McAndrews, Thomas Ryan, J. Barrett, B. Langam, M. J. Keane, D. McCollough and others. This point at once became prominent as a Catholic settlement. Rev. Father Scanlan from DeWill, Iowa, visited here at an early day and by word and example encouraged Catholic people in Clinton county to invest in the cheap lands to be had in the vicinity of Vail. The Catholic mission has developed such strength that in 1878 Bishop Hennessey, considering it of sufficient importance to have a permanent pastor, sent hither Rev. R. McGrath. During his pastorate seven acres of land, on a commanding knoll east of town were acquired for a church site and a frame structure was soon erected thereon, but was blown down by an old-fashioned Twister in the summer of 1880. The traditions of this first edifice would bear repeating, but space forbids. No, we must pass on regretfully. Rev. R. McGrath, the typical Irish gentleman, full of life and manly vigor, standing full six feet, weighing 225 pounds, the friend of every man, the Catholic, the Protestant, the Free Thinker, generous to a fault—the memory of Father McGrath, Vail's first pastor, will never fade.

THE PERMANENT PERIOD.

Father Lenihan, the present bishop of Great Falls, Montana, succeeded Father McGrath. With commendable zeal the young priest began to bring order out of chaos. He succeeded. The debris was cleared away, the grounds were graded nicely, the old church lumber was carted to a suitable spot and a set of plans were ordered for the new brick structure that now stands in good repair at the present moment. Father Lenihan was a great worker, always ready to do anything about the church, to solemnize the marriage, to dust the altar. One day, like all ambitious men, he did too much. Almighty smoke rose over the great berg. Men lost their way to Barrett's store and Ryan's cafe, so great was the darkness. Women prayed and called about for help, so great was their fear and fright. Oh, what consternation! Oh, what terror! In burning off some withered grass the future bishop did some things he willed not. Thus perished the lumber of the cyclone wrecked first church edifice of Vail.

In the summer of 1887, Marshalltown and Vail exchanged pastors. There was no boot; Father Murphy, a man of great modesty and sincerity of character, was pleased with the prospects Vail presented for a life of undisturbed piety. Here for twenty-three years, this good man ran his Godly race. He

ne'er hath changed, nor wished to change his place, yet in his quiet way he has done things. A completed parish residence, a parochial school with five sisters and one hundred and fifteen pupils, a church in good repair, a congregation of eight hundred souls, these are results which speak for efficiency in the good and gentle Father Murphy.

The Catholic church at West Side is attended from Vail. It was erected in 1887, at a cost of \$2,700. Messrs. J. T. Pendegrast, J. F. White, J. Allan and F. W. Lawler deserve mention as a committee who worked and made the best of the slender means at their disposal to organize Catholic society in this section. This congregation has a population of about one hundred souls. Services are held ordinarily once a month.

MANILLA AND BUCK GROVE.

The extension of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway to Sioux City in 1886, and the establishment of Manilla as a division station where passengers and freight exchange cars for all points in the Dakotas and the great Northwest, was a history-making period for this handsome city of the plains.

The Catholic church was organized here with Messrs. J. Collins, T. Collins, M. McMahon, D. McMahon, P. Carey, D. Y. Dougherty, D. D. McMahon, M. D. McMahon, Michael Meehan, L. McNertney, T. Stevens, E. Knot, John Scanlon, J. Laughran, M. McSorley, L. Finnegan, A. McAffrey, at the helm. Up to 1886 Catholic services were held occasionally at Aspinwall, but in November, 1887, the church edifice at Manilla was completed and services have been held there regularly since that time. As I look over the field for landmarks I find Manilla has had five pastors to her credit; the magnetic H. Byrne, the genial E. O. Ferris, the energetic T. Wran, the enthusiastic M. M. Tierney, and last but not least the honestly diplomatic P. Lynch.

The Sacred Heart Catholic church at Manilla was erected in 1887, at a cost of about \$3,000.00. It was dedicated for divine services the same year, and with some improvements continues to serve its purpose. About thirty-five families furnished the nucleus of the congregation, which was administered to by Rev. H. Byrne, who resided at Manning. In the year 1890 Father Byrne was succeeded by Rev. Edward O'Farrell, who erected a parochial residence at Manilla and moved thither the same year. Manilla being more central from which the Buck Grove mission might be attended to, Rev. Father O'Farrell zealously watched over the destinies of the parish until 1893, when he was succeeded by Rev. Francis Wrenn, who two years later, 1895, was succeeded by Rev. Michael M. Tierney. Rev. Father Tierney held office until 1904, being then succeeded by Rev. Thomas Coffey, who in 1909, was succeeded by the present incumbent, Rev. P. T. Lynch. The parish has grown considerably and is now in a prosperous condition with about fifty families and a membership of 252. The church property is entirely free of debt. The history of St. Joseph's church, Buck Grove, is similar to that of Manilla. It was erected in 1888 by Rev. H. Byrne, and presided over by the various pastors of Manilla ever since. The building cost \$750. It is free of debt and is progressing favorably. It has twenty-two families and a membership of 105.

The history of Charter Oak parish dates back to the early eighties, when four or five pioneer Catholics purchased a forty-acre site some four or five miles northeast of the present town of Charter Oak, intending to erect a new church on that lot, but the late Monsignor B. Lenihan, of Fort Dodge, then pastor of Denison, persuaded them to purchase a building place in the then new town of Charter Oak, for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul branch was then being built from Manilla to Sioux City. They at once bought three lots and erected a frame church at a cost of about \$2,000.

The late Monsignor Lenihan first celebrated mass in a little country school-house about two miles southeast of the town. Afterwards Rev. M. J. Farrelly was installed as pastor at Denison with Charter Oak as a mission, and for nearly twelve years this good priest faithfully administered to the spiritual wants of the people of Charter Oak some fourteen miles distant. In October, 1896, Rev. Maurice Costello, present pastor of Livermore, was made first resident pastor of Charter Oak. Under trying circumstances he worked energetically for two years. He was succeeded by Rev. L. J. Cooper, now of Alvord, Iowa, who purchased and equipped a beautiful residence with all modern requirements, exchanged the three lots on which the church stood for two others on the south side of the same block and thence removed the church. After seven years he was succeeded by Rev. H. Eckart. In August, 1908, the old church of Charter Oak was completely destroyed by lightning.

In October, 1908, the present pastor, Father L. Schenkelberg, arrived to find no church or even sacred vessels to offer the Holy Sacrifice. The people were ready to build. After considering various locations, they finally secured a suitable lot at the south side of the town for a consideration of \$770, afterwards selling the old lots for \$3,500. Mr. Martin Heer, of Dubuque, was chosen architect and a building eighty-eight feet by forty-four feet of Romanesque style was started. The building was to be of Twin City brick, the foundation of reenforced concrete, ten feet in the clear. The foundation walls above ground to be faced with stone. The water table and trimmings of the entire building was to be of Bedford stone. In April, 1909, the contract was given to Henry Tuppendorf of Rock Island, Illinois, who began work in May, 1909. On June 27, Rt. Rev. P. J. Garrigan, assisted by Rev. A. J. Wagner, of Mapleton, Rev. A. Schaefer, of Danbury, and Rev. L. Schenkelberg, the pastor, laid the cornerstone. Father Schaefer on that occasion delivered a very eloquent sermon on the "Real Presence," and his lordship spoke of the blessing of God as found in the Catholic church. The church was completed about the middle of October, 1909, and after the interior had been neatly decorated by Mr. John Reese, of Charter Oak, and the necessary furniture installed by the Dubuque Altar Company, the church was opened for divine services, and on Sunday, October 31, the congregation after fifteen months' patient waiting, once more worshipped in a church of their own.

In May, 1909, the parochial residence was commenced. It is a spacious two-story building, 34x28 feet. The plan was drawn by John Happe, of Denison, and contract given to Probasco & Happe, of Charter Oak. The residence

is finished with all modern improvements. The people of Charter Oak may well feel proud of their new church and parochial residence.

Ute and Kenwood are attended from Charter Oak. The total membership is about four hundred. The organizers of church at Charter Oak were John Simon, John Ullerich, A. Jobjen and A. Topf.

The above article was copied from "True Voice," November 11, 1910.

LATTER DAY SAINTS.

ORIGIN—DISORGANIZATION—REORGANIZATION.

Early and Prominent Settlers of Crawford County, Iowa,

By Elder Charles J. Hunt.

"Orthodoxy is my doxy; heterodoxy is your doxy," was the general verdict of religionists in this as well as other countries when the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was organized by Joseph Smith and others at Palmyra, New York, April 6, 1830. The religious world had a great problem to solve: If the Church of Christ is on earth to-day, how did it come to us? It must have been in one of three ways—by succession from Apostolic times, by evolution, or by restoration. The Latter Day Saints hold to the last of these—restoration, claiming that an angel of the Lord came in fulfillment of Bible prophecy, ordained Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery by laying on of hands, and directed them and others, after baptism, to organize the church. The church in solemn assembly, affirmed the principles of the gospel taught by Christ and His apostles as recorded in the Bible; and in addition thereto, declared a belief in the Book of Mormon in which it is claimed, is given an historical, doctrinal and prophetic account of a pre-historic civilization on the American continent from the dispersion at the Tower of Babel to the fifth century of the Christian era, a period of more than twenty-five hundred years, and in present day revelation from God as in Apostolic times. It embodied in its laws, temperance, morality, social purity, obedience to civil law, and spiritual development.

In church organization they followed closely the New Testament plan, having apostles, prophets, sevens, patriarchs or evangelists, pastors or high priests, bishops, elders, priests, teachers and deacons. The church soon gathered into its fold people from the various walks in life—the rich and the poor, the learned and the unlearned, until they numbered many thousands.

A large number of the members soon emigrated from the state of New York to Ohio where they built up a great commonwealth. At Kirtland, Ohio, was erected a large and beautiful temple for divine worship. From this place missionaries went as far west as Missouri. Later many laymen with their families followed and established for themselves homes in the northern and western part of that state. Unlike some of their neighbors of different religious faith, they were opposed to the slave traffic, and consequently being forced to abandon their homes, they emigrated to Illinois where thousands found peace, protection and prosperity for a time. Nauvoo, the "City Beautiful," was, in 1843, the pride of the state. It was at Carthage, near Nauvoo, that their prophet and leader, Joseph Smith, was killed in 1844. The church then numbered nearly

two hundred thousand. The religious convictions of this people continued strong in opposition to the slave holding system of the southern states and was one of the direct causes of the martyrdom of Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum. Of their untimely death ex-governor Ford in his history of Illinois (pages 7 and 8), says: "It was cold-blooded murder, and the persons who committed the crime ought to have been made to answer for it."

The death of the martyrs caused disruption in the church. Brigham Young, one of the twelve apostles, contrary to the laws of the organization, claimed the right to leadership. Many public meetings were held in which he was denounced as a usurper and tyrant not worthy of membership, because of having violated the laws of God and the church. But he succeeded in inducing a fraction of the membership to follow him to Utah where he introduced the doctrine of polygamy and established a church of his own.

As there was a strong pro-slavery element in southern Illinois near Nauvoo, and a growing prejudice and jealousy on the part of the citizens of that state against the Saints on account of their political and religious views, the church became disorganized and its members scattered over different states and territories. As a class the Saints were peaceable and law abiding; and although persecuted and driven from place to place they continued steadfast in their faith in God. Thus unwavering in their religious experience, they waited hopefully for the time when Joseph Smith, son of Joseph Smith the martyr, should, by divine appointment and ordination, take his father's place as legal successor in the presidency of the church. This hope was realized in 1860, the church having been reorganized in Wisconsin eight years prior to this time; and Joseph Smith the son, became the prophet and leader of the church.

H. H. Bancroft, the great American historian, in his book, page 164, has this to say of the Latter Day Saints, many of whom moved to Iowa: "But when the testimony on both sides is carefully weighed, it must be admitted that the Mormons (Latter Day Saints) in Missouri and Illinois were, as a class, a more moral, honest, temperate, hard-working, self-denying, and thrifty people than the gentiles by whom they were surrounded."

Some of these Saints, in 1848 and in the early fifties, came to the western part of the state. They traversed the rich valleys and the fertile slopes, finally reaching Pottawattamie, Harrison, and Shelby counties. A number of them, soon after resumed their travels, and crossing the trackless prairies and fording the running streams in their "prairie schooners" drawn by oxen, located in what is now known as Crawford County. They made their homes in the sheltering forests that skirted the streams and were soon breaking the virgin soil, building saw-mills and grist-mills and putting up log houses for dwellings, public schools, and religious services.

Elder Frank Rudd, a Latter Day Saint minister with his family located in North Grove in 1850 and built the first house in that part of the county. One year later (1851) Jesse Mason and his family of like religious faith settled in the central part of the county in the large grove which since that time has been known as Mason's Grove. Noah V. Johnson and his brother George J. and Calvin Horr arrived during the summer, and before the winter snows had fallen, Levi Skinner and family came and established homes in Mason's Grove. In

April of the next year Benjamin Dobson and family and his son, Elder Thomas Dobson and family, located in the fertile valley of the Boyer river near Mason's Grove, where the town of Deloit was afterward located.

In 1853 Elder John R. Rudd and Benjamin F. Galland with their families established homes near where Dow City now stands, and Elder William H. Jordan and family arrived the next year. There was now a settlement of Saints at the future towns of Deloit and Dow City. When the fertility of the soil and the opportunity for establishing homes and again enjoying church privileges became known to their friends, their numbers increased rapidly. These resolute, persevering Christian people who had been persecuted and scattered because of their religious convictions were the pioneer settlers of Crawford County, taking a prominent part in county organization and holding county offices for years.

The church in its scattered condition was beginning to rise above the gloom and depression occasioned by the death of the prophet and the disorganization of the church; conferences were held, and in 1852 a reorganization was effected; missionaries were again sent out to preach and to build up the church. The first of these missionaries to come to Crawford County was Elder John A. McIntosh of Shelby County, Iowa, accompanied by Elder Alexander McCord who came to Mason's Grove in August, 1858, and held services in a log school house near Deloit.

Their efforts were supplemented by those of Elders Thomas Dobson, Eli Clothier and others whose labors resulted in the organization, July 5, 1862, of a branch of the church since known as the Deloit branch, with eleven members, viz.: Elder Thomas Dobson, president or pastor, Joseph Wheeler, priest, George J. Johnson, teacher. The other charter members were Sarah Dobson, Eliza Mason, Eliza Johnson, Joseph D. Lane, Nancy Lane, Sarah Lane, John Whitney, and Joseph Skinner.

Regular Sunday services were held at the Deloit school house, the Jordan school house, and the Mason school house alternately. The branch grew and prospered and in 1873 the membership numbered more than one hundred. It was then that a brick chapel was built in Deloit which is still used for church purposes and within whose walls hundreds have come to a realization of the necessity and privilege of living a Christian life and whence many have gone forth to disseminate the doctrine as believed by them. This local organization has had, besides Elder Thomas Dobson, the following resident pastors: Benjamin F. Wicks, Eli T. Dobson, Worden W. Whiting, Ira A. Goff, Sen., James T. Turner, William McKim and Carl W. Winey.

A Sunday school was organized in 1866 which was first superintended by T. C. Dobson. This auxiliary society has continued to the present time. The Zion's Religio-Literary Society, an organization for the youth of the church for the study of the Book of Mormon, American archaeology, church history ancient and modern, was effected in 1899 and has been and is still a factor for good.

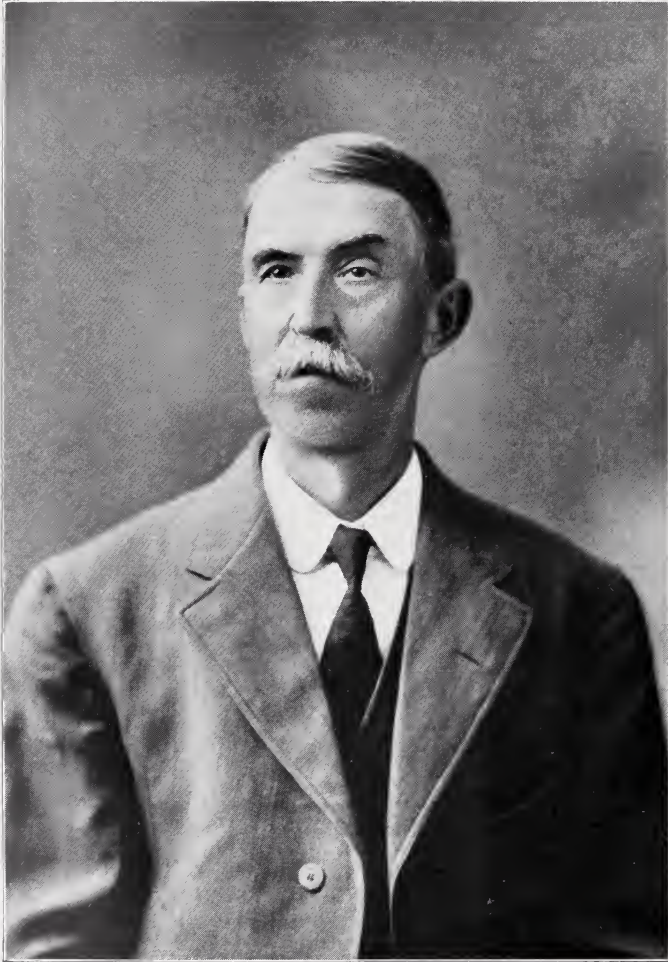
In June, 1867, the Latter Day Saints living at Dow City were organized into a branch of twenty-two members with Elder George Montague pastor, John R. Rudd priest, George W. Bird teacher, and Frank Rudd clerk. The other charter members were Serelda Rudd, Hiram Rudd, Elvira L. Rudd, Sarah E. Rudd,

James Ballantyne, Abigail E. Ballantyne, John O. Ballantyne, Margaret Montague, A. E. Montague, N. Andrew, Eliza Bird, J. A. Jenkins, Mary C. Hawley, Albert R. Hawley, Margaret Thompson, Carmelona Wight, S. Wight, and John W. Wight.

This society of earnest Christian workers flourished, soon enrolling other strong and faithful followers. This branch has had local pastors besides Elder George Montague, A. Kuykendall, E. C. Benedict, Charles E. Butterworth, Thomas W. Chatburn, James M. Baker, James L. Butterworth and Alfred Jackson. In early years regular Sunday school and church services were held in country school houses, but later a chapel was provided at Dow City which is still occupied by them.

The Sunday school was organized in 1872 with George Montague as its first superintendent, and which has continued to the present time. A Gospel Research Society (afterwards called Zion's Religio-Literary Society) was organized in 1886 with Elder Frank Rudd as its first presiding officer. This society has enlisted in its ranks several young men who have become missionaries and eminent church workers.

The Latter Day Saints in Crawford County have helped liberally to support every financial enterprise of the general church, a corporation having its headquarters and publishing houses at Lamoni, Iowa, and Independence, Missouri. The local congregations at Deloit and Dow City have qualified for service several prominent and efficient church workers, among whom may be named Charles E. Butterworth, patriarch and evangelical minister, John W. Wight and Cornelius A. Butterworth, apostles, Charles J. Hunt, local bishop, also men who have faithfully filled the offices of high priest or pastor, seventy, elder, priest, teacher, and deacon.



Z. T. HAWK

CHAPTER XXIV.

CRAWFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS.

By Mr. Z. T. Hawk.

The westward tide of migration in the latitude of the Middle and New England states bore ever on its crest the schoolhouse. The isolated settlers' cabin on the bank of some pleasant stream, or in some sheltering grove, was the sign of advancing civilization. For mutual protection other pioneers took claims and built their primitive homes in the vicinity. If there were children in the community there was no delay in providing for their education. The settlers contributed their labor to prepare material and a "raising bee" placed it in position in some sheltered spot, easy of access summer and winter.

Such were the conditions in Crawford county in 1856 when the settlers in and about Mason's grove built their little log schoolhouse in the shelter of the woods, a few rods east of the Boyer river and made Morris McHenry the teacher of their children. The beginning was auspicious. A good man, honest and true, was the first teacher of the first school in the county. It was an earnest of the future of the great system of schools of Crawford county then beginning in the remote little settlement. The next year there was a school in the new town of Denison at the forks of the Boyer. Other settlements, Coon Grove, Dunham's Grove and Bee Tree Grove, quickly followed the example of these two, but which may lay claim to the third school cannot now be determined.

The first, and probably the second, school at Mason's Grove, paid the teacher by subscription, for there were, as yet, no public funds. The same plan was no doubt followed at Denison in 1857.

At the first county election, 1855, Isaac Goodrich was chosen school fund commissioner. The first levy of school tax by the board of supervision was in July, 1857, at which time $\frac{1}{2}$ mill was assessed against the taxable property of the county. The next year the levy was one mill. In 1859 the levy was, school one mill, teachers fund district township of Denison $2\frac{1}{2}$ mills, contingent $\frac{1}{2}$ mill. The valuation of non-resident prairie lands in Milford township was \$3.00 per acre while resident lands were listed at \$2.50. At that time the county had only three townships. The south tier of congressional townships composed Union township. Denison township lay north of Union and was 24 miles long, east

and west, and eight miles wide. Milford comprised the remainder of the county. January 1, 1861, the treasurer's report showed \$5,061.30 due on contracts for school lands; \$2367.20 paid in to school fund from sales of land, \$99.64 received from the state—a very good showing for the permanent school fund of the new county.

The first official mention of county superintendent is found in the board minutes for August 12, 1858, when Thomas Dobson was allowed \$25.00 for six months salary as superintendent. In 1860 H. C. Laub became superintendent and held the office for ten years. The settlement of the country evidently progressed slowly for in 1866 there were only 15 schools and 19 licensed teachers. That year the superintendent devoted 8 days to the service of the schools for which he received \$3.00 per day, a total of \$24.00.

April 1, 1861, S. E. Dow, county treasurer, reported school money collected, \$577.81; received from the state, \$156.18; total \$733.99. Of this sum Denison township received \$330.28; Milford, \$256.89; Union, \$146.82. Six years later, 1867, the apportionment was as follows: Denison, \$298.10; Union, \$155.60; Boyer, \$70.45; Milford, \$263.71.

In the early days of the county there were several log schoolhouses. The one near Deloit was abandoned as early as 1859; one located in the heavy timber about a mile west of Cornelius Dunham's pioneer cabin of 1849, in East Boyer township, was standing late in the '60s and one in Boyer township, also known as the "Dunham schoolhouse," because of its being located near Cornelius Dunham's second place of settlement, mud-chinked and sod-roofed, was doing duty as a schoolhouse in 1867, and perhaps later. In 1870 the county superintendent reported 1 log, 8 brick, and 24 frame schoolhouses, and in 1871, 9 brick and 34 frame houses. The log schoolhouse, the symbol of pioneer civilization, had vanished from Crawford county forever. Many of the so-called frame schoolhouses were merely temporary little shacks, to be abandoned as soon as the district could raise money enough to build better houses. One old settler says of the one first built in his district, "It was about 7x9 feet and when there was a fire in the stove the teacher and scholars had to stay outside." In the rural districts the number of schools was greater than the number of schoolhouses until as late as 1880, school being held in some farmer's kitchen or spare bedroom until the district could build a house.

In such cases the teacher was quite sure to be the farmer himself or some member of his family. The superintendents were accommodating, and, in order to aid some struggling settler to winter his family or to build his house, would, regardless of qualifications, grant some member of the family permission to teach. These "permits," at first almost a necessity, became, after a few years, a common currency with which to pay political debts and to purchase political support. Having once yielded to the pernicious custom it was almost impossible for a superintendent to regain his independence. Many experienced and well qualified teachers were crowded out of the schools and educational progress was materially retarded by the custom.

From 1870 to 1880 and later was a period of great activity in settlement and the number of schools increased with great rapidity. Good schoolhouses were built but the rapidly changing settlement centers often made it necessary

to move the house to a new location. It was a common remark that a new schoolhouse must be built on trucks to save expense and time. One house in east Boyer was moved three times and finally came to rest about four miles from where it originally stood.

But the schoolhouses of that period, whether stationary or peripatetic, were the center of great social and intellectual activity. Spelling schools, lyceums, or literary societies, debates and exhibitions occupied many of the winter evenings. If the Chapman school at Dunham's Grove couldn't "spell down" the Pleasant Hill school over in the Swan district in East Boyer, it surely would be found trying, and all the country side, from Denison to Vail, would go to see the fun. And the weekly debate sharpened the wits of the country lads and taught them how to think while on their feet and gave them broader views of public questions as well as greater respect for those who differed from them in opinion. There was scarcely a citizen of any prominence in the county who did not take an active and prominent part in these subsidiary lines of educational work. It is to be noted, too, that in the period mentioned there were many more older boys and girls in school than there are now. It was no uncommon thing to find a country school with from half a dozen to a dozen young people of from sixteen to twenty years of age in daily attendance. Now the young lad or miss of fourteen drops out of school the moment the compulsory age limit is reached. In 1878 the county superintendent visited the Hope school, north of West Side, one winter afternoon. He was late and on his arrival met the teacher, Wm. M. Graham, and his pupils, just leaving the schoolhouse. They had quit work early in order to get ready for a spelling match that evening. With the greatest cheerfulness they returned to work to show the superintendent what they could do, and for more than an hour the work done by those young men and women in algebra, arithmetic, grammar and history was nothing short of brilliant. To satisfy himself that the lessons had not been mapped out for the occasion the superintendent took charge of the quiz but could find nothing wrong. One of the young men in the class was the late George W. Catt, who, a year or two later, entered college at Ames, graduated with high honors from the civil engineering department, and made for himself fame and fortune in his profession. This was undoubtedly one of the very best schools in the county but it may be fairly taken as a type of many others scattered throughout the different townships and doing work that was almost as good.

It has been said that older boys and girls were found in the schools twenty-five and thirty years ago because there were more male teachers at work then, especially in the rural districts, in the winter. This is probably true, in a measure. In 1881 there were 67 male and 135 female teachers, a ratio of one to two. In 1910 there were 34 male and 306 female teachers, a ratio of one to nine. At the earlier date four of the male teachers were engaged in the graded schools; at the later date sixteen of the male teachers were employed in the towns and villages. It is suggested that consolidation of small rural schools would increase the interest and attendance and at the same time reduce the expense of operation. There are eight such consolidated schools in Crawford county but they have not been in operation long enough to prove the feasibility of the plan.

TABLE A

County Superintendents

Thomas Dobson, 1858 to 1860; 1 term.
 H. C. Laub, 1860 to 1870; 5 terms.
 N. J. Wheeler, 1870 to 1874; 2 terms.
 J. O. Stanton, 1874, 7 months; died in office.
 E. W. Sargent, Nov., 1874, 3 months. Appointed to fill vacancy.
 N. F. Smith, 1874 to 1878; 3 years, 2 months.
 Z. T. Hawk, 1878 to 1880; 1 term.
 N. F. Smith, 1880 to 1882; 1 term.
 E. M. Ainsworth, 1882 to 1886, 2 terms.
 M. M. McAlpin, 1886 to 1892; 3 terms.
 Henry Kelly, 1892 to 1896; 2 terms.
 W. T. Wright, 1896 to 1898; 1 term.
 A. G. Myers, 1898 to 1902; 2 terms.
 C. W. Van Coelln, 1902 to 1904; 1 term.
 F. L. Hoffman, 1904 to 1911; 3½ terms.
 F. N. Olry, 1911.

The county superintendents have for the most part been elected from the ranks of teachers. But if Thomas Dobson and Dr. J. O. Stanton were teachers it was prior to the time of their settlement in Crawford county. The first two incumbents gave but little of their time to the duties of the office, there being but little to do. N. J. Wheeler was the first who gave any considerable portion of his time to the examination of teachers or visiting of schools. The oldest records to be found in the superintendent's office were made by Wheeler and dated October 8, 1870. On that date certificates were issued by Sylvester M. Thew and Edwin Ainsworth. Thew was given a second grade certificate and the record states that he never taught. Ainsworth received a first grade. Wheeler engaged in business in 1873 and Dr. J. O. Stanton, a very popular young physician who had been in the county but a short time, was elected to succeed him. Stanton was a man of high ideals and much was expected of his administration. He had been in office barely five months when failing health compelled him to relinquish work. His last record was made in the superintendent's book May 28, 1875. He died a month or two later, mourned by the entire county. His deputy, N. F. Smith, managed the affairs of the office until the September session of the board of supervisors, when E. W. Sargent was appointed to fill the vacancy.

At the fall election N. F. Smith was elected to fill the unexpired term and immediately assumed the duties of the office. He was reelected in 1875, serving one term.

Z. T. Hawk was nominated in 1877 for his well known hostility to permits and was elected by a small majority. There was a very general desire throughout the county that stricter methods of examination be adopted and the more inefficient teachers be dropped from the list. The new superintendent at once set to work to carry out the provisions of the platform on which he had been elected but soon found that he had stirred up a hornet's nest. The trimming process went on, however, and at the end of his second year every

teacher at work in the county could pass a fairly good examination. It took no prophet to foretell the result of the next election. He was buried beneath an adverse majority of nearly 300, but public sentiment had been awakened and the abuses were gradually reduced to the minimum. In 1879 a circular containing a carefully prepared synopsis of the duties of school officers and powers of the electors at the March meetings went far toward preventing the usual spring entanglements; and a course of study for the rural schools, with general directions and sample programs, was placed in the hands of all the teachers. This course was the forerunner of the one placed in the schools by McAlpin some years later. The state department of public instruction later enlarged upon the idea and sent out a very elaborate manual of methods and course of study in an effort to secure, as far as possible, uniformity in the work of the rural schools.

On the basis of this work many pupils are each year graduated from the rural schools of Crawford county and granted diplomas at the annual institute. In 1911 the rural graduates numbered 38.

Without exception the county superintendents of Crawford county have been men who earnestly desired the success and welfare of the schools and devoted their time and energies to the improvement of every detail of the educational system. Hawk, Ainsworth, Hoffman and Olry were chosen on account of their successful administration of affairs in the graded schools of Denison, Vail, West Side and Schleswig; Smith, McAlpin, Kelly and Myers because of their admirable work in the rural schools. Dr. Wright because of his activity and high standing as a director on the Denison school board and his deep interest in all matters pertaining to education; von Coelln because of his wide reputation as an educator of the highest rank. Few of them were free to carry out their own ideas in school administration and the most of them were victims eventually of the relentless party machine that knows only expediency. The action of the 31st General Assembly in relieving him of the responsibility of issuing teachers' certificates gave freedom to the county superintendent and goes far toward lifting him from the plain of petty politics.

At an early date Crawford county turned her attention to the founding of libraries. As early as 1869 or 1870 the Wheeler brothers, Orr and Nelson, both teachers then residing in East Boyer, were instrumental in securing the purchase of a library for that township. It consisted of some 200 volumes. It was kept undivided at the residence of some farmer who acted as librarian by appointment of the board of directors. This was undoubtedly the first public library in the county, though several others were founded soon after. The East Boyer library became the source of much bickering and ill feeling in the township and was finally sold at auction and dispersed about 1883. In 1875 Denison township levied a tax of \$500.00 to found a library and from that time the movement became general throughout the county. In 1879 the county superintendent reported 1180 volumes in district libraries, Crawford county leading the state. The 28th General Assembly, in 1899, made the establishment of district libraries mandatory and every school in the county is now supplied with a case of well selected books. The total number of volumes reported in the county in 1910 was 11,707.

In the early part of A. G. Myers term of office Mr. George W. Schee, a wealthy philanthropist of Plymouth county, offered to donate \$50.00 annually for ten years to those counties that would raise a like amount for the purpose of founding and maintaining a teachers' professional library. The offer was promptly accepted by Crawford county and by means of an annual fee of twenty-five cents paid by teachers desiring to use the books, a splendid library has been built up. \$1100 has been thus expended. The book of the state teachers' reading circle was also added each year. For the greater convenience of the teachers the library is divided and a case of books maintained in every town in the county. Two hundred teachers patronize the library.

F. L. Hoffman, during the seven years of his incumbency, devoted much attention to the grading of the rural schools. By a very complete system of reports from the teacher to the parents, to the subdirector and to the superintendent, much interest was awakened and the number of rural graduates largely increased, one graduating class numbering 49.

Supt. F. N. Olry is planning a campaign for better and more sanitary school-houses. Efforts will be made to secure better heating and lighting and to banish the old-fashioned water pail for more sanitary drinking vessels. Seasonable work in agriculture will be presented through the medium of circulars and personal visits of the superintendent to the rural schools.

From the earliest period of its history Crawford county has given its teachers the full benefit of such training as is to be had in normal institutes. The first institute of which we have any record was held in January, 1870, with Prof. J. L. Enos, of Cedar Rapids, as conductor. Prof. Enos was also conductor of the session the next year in November when 50 teachers were enrolled. In 1872 Prof. J. C. Gilchrist, of Mason City, was conductor, and in 1873 Prof. E. Baker of Oskaloosa, a most successful teacher of teachers, conducted an enthusiastic institute. Up to this time the law authorized only one week. In August, 1873, Z. T. Hawk organized and taught a normal institute of four weeks, anticipating the normal institute by a year. The tuition was \$5.00 for the term. 18 teachers enrolled, mainly for the purpose of fitting themselves to teach physiology, the new branch that had recently been placed on the list of common school studies. He was also conductor of the next four county normals in succession, Ed. M. Ainsworth being assistant instructor two years. The sessions of 1878 and 1879 were conducted by Prof. J. D. Hornby, of Harrison county. He was an expert in the use of the slate and the methods he introduced almost worked a revolution in teaching in Crawford county.

The earlier normal institutes were usually in session four weeks; a little later the time was reduced to three weeks; then for a number of years the length of session was two weeks, until, finally, in 1910, the session was concluded in six days. It was the original intent of the normal institute law to give the teachers thorough reviews of the common school branches as well as to teach them school methods and management. But as educational facilities for teachers have greatly increased in late years there is less need of textbook instruction in these annual gatherings and more time is devoted to professional training through the medium of lectures by prominent educators and the local conductors. A normal institute of today is an interesting example of

educational atavism for it differs in no respect from the institute of forty years ago.

In 1900, 241 teachers were enrolled in the Crawford county normal institute. W. C. VanNess was conductor. Instructors, J. L. Rose, C. F. Garrett, H. H. Hahn, P. M. Hersom, Ida Craft and C. W. von Coelln. Lecturer, Rev. M. J. Farrelly. Cost of instruction \$612.00; incidentals, \$46.00; total \$658.00. Length of session two weeks. A. G. Myers, county superintendent.

In 1910, 167 teachers enrolled; county superintendent F. L. Hoffman was conductor. Instructors, W. C. VanNess, E. W. Fellows, G. E. Weaver, Blanche Gandy, Bertha Caldwell and F. E. Bolton. Five lecturers delivered 12 lectures. Cost of instruction, \$552.41; incidentals, \$88.89; total, \$641.30. Length of session, six days.

TABLE B

From Reports of the County Superintendents

Showing the number of persons in the county between the ages of 5 and 21 years, the number enrolled in the schools, the average attendance, the number of schools and the number of teachers.

Year	Enumeration	Enrolled in School	Average Attendance	No. of Schools	No. of Teachers
1861	168	....	....	...	...
1865	223	....	....	....	....
1866	461	344	133	15	19
1867	486	351	264	17	19
1868	682	504	320	..	32
1869	736	482	358	25	34
1870	817	740	472	32	48
1871	1263	1007	508	43	57
1873	1570	1140	599	86	95
1879	3727	2866	1467	117	159
1881	4406	2340	1592	131	204
1890	6653	5617	3210	189	268
1895	7249	5804	3372	201	356
1900	7735	5762	3642	214	359
1905	7546	5616	3686	221	368
1910	6500	4934	3319	216	340

In counting the number of schools each room in a graded school is counted as a separate school.

TABLE C

From Reports of the County Superintendents

Schoolhouse Fund.

	1900	1905	1910
Paid for schoolhouses and sites	\$ 26,032.63	\$ 1,291.06	\$ 4,650.00
Paid on bonds and interest	3,263.72	6,229.69	2,002.25
Paid for library books	128.65	1,001.00	67.16
Paid for other purposes	506.43	1,333.43	943.45
Total	\$ 29,931.43	\$ 8,954.18	\$ 7,662.86

Contingent Fund.

	1900	1905	1910
Paid for fuel, rent, repairs	\$ 17,736.14	\$ 20,440.72	\$ 19,919.65
Paid secretaries and treasurers	1,889.74	2,1338.80	2,297.08
Paid for records and apparatus	2,921.26	243.91	683.76
Pd. for library books and dictionaries	25.00	311.22	195.46
Paid for general supplies	2,478.91	3,465.74	3,636.90
Paid for other purposes	3,028.39	6,844.22	2,495.60
Paid for free text books .....	.....	.....	.....
Total	\$ 28,079.44	\$ 34,418.27	\$ 29,228.45

Teachers' Fund.

	1900	1905	1910
Paid teachers	\$ 61,669.00	\$ 74,291.84	\$ 93,176.41
Paid for library books .....	.....	267.67	189.22
Paid for other purposes .....	.....	1,622.34	100.11
Total	\$ 61,669.00	\$ 76,181.85	\$ 93,465.74
Total of the three funds	\$119,679.87	\$119,554.30	\$130,357.05

In Table C the expenditures in each of the three years given may be taken as normal with the exception of that in 1900 Denison paid \$21,569.67 from the schoolhouse fund for the new high school building, and in 1910 the same corporation paid \$4,000 from the same fund for the Famliton property. In view of the fact that the total average attendance in all the schools of the county was but 3,319 pupils in 1910 it would seem that an expenditure of \$130,000 in one year indicates that our school system is unreasonably expensive.

It is interesting to note how many of the early teachers later became important factors in the building of the new commonwealth. Morris McHenry, E. S. Plimpton, H. C. Laub, J. D. Seagrave, J. H. Woodruff, George L. Wright, and George Rae are names familiar to all. True G. Daniels, one of the founders of the Bulletin, Nels H. Wheeler, Orr Wheeler, George H. Lyon, William Graham, Julia King, Archie McMartin, Robert Montgomery, N. Richards, H. E. Talcott, Chas. Morris, Wm. Goodrich, Kate McKim, E. R. Snell, Clarence Wilder, Kate McAndrews, Mary DeWolf-Strong, J. H. DeWolf and E. W. Sargent all held certificates in 1870 and 1871. Cyrus and Seba Greek and J. C. Robinson were teachers during the same years. N. L. Hunt and Eli T. Dobson in 1878-9. Mary A. Pett, John T. and Leanard Archerd, John Robinson, Maggie Kevan-Harding, E. W. Pierce, Albert Helsley, Mary Molony-Phelan, Pat Keeney, Maggie Gibson-McHenry, Lydia Gibson-Pierce, E. D. Haskin-Pearson, Aggie Patridge-Muir and Louise Walker-Morris, gave long and faithful service to the schools. Hon. W. A. Davie and Hon. Theo. C. Blume each made brilliant records in the school-room. A. G. Myers and John Ajnsworth, still in active service, are probably the senior teachers of the county, the former having taught almost continuously since 1877 and the latter since 1881.

Crawford county's most distinguished educator, Hon. Alonzo A. Abernethy, was never a teacher within her borders. He was elected State Superintendent of

Public Instruction in 1871 and served several terms in that high office with great distinction. He was the father of the normal institution law and gave form and direction to much that is best in Iowa's educational system. While on his farm in Denison township he wrote much for the agricultural press and was regarded as high authority on all matters pertaining to the farm.

TABLE D

Teachers' Wages

	Spring and Fall.				Winter.			
	1st	2nd	3rd	Pro.	1st	2nd	3rd	Pro.
Soldier, 8 mo.	43	42	40	40	48	47	45	45
Morgan, 8 mo.	48	46	44		48	46	44	
Otter Creek, 9 mo. .	48	45	42	40	48	45	42	40
Stockholm, 8 mo. . .	43	40	37	33	46	43	40	36
Jackson, 9 mo.	42½	40	37½		42½	40	37½	
West Side, 9 mo. . .	40	40	35	32	40	40	35	32
Milford, 8 mo.	42½	40	35	30	42½	40	35	30
Goodrich, 8 mo. . . .	40	40	38	38	40	40	38	38
Hanover, 9 mo. . . .	42	40	37		42	40	37	
Charter Oak, 8 mo. .	42½	40	40	40	42½	37½	37½	37½
Willow, 8 mo.	42½	40	40	40	42½	40	40	40
25c. PER PUPIL OVER 25 ENROLLED								
Paradise, 9 mo.	45	42	38	33	45	42	38	33
Denison, 8 mo.	45	40	35	35	45	40	35	35
East Boyer, 9 mo. .	36	36	36	36 5 mo.	40	40	40	40 4 mo.
Hayes, 9 mo.	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Iowa, 9 mo.	40	40	40	40 5 mo.	45	45	45	45 4 mo.
Nishnabotna, 9 mo. .	45	40	35	35	45	40	35	35
Washington, 9 mo. .	45	40	35	35	45	40	35	35
Union, 9 mo.	45	40	35		45	40	35	
Boyer, 8 mo.	45	40	40		45	40	40	

THE DELOIT SCHOOL

To Deloit belongs the honor of having the first school ever taught in Crawford county. Elder C. J. Hunt has kindly furnished the following facts regarding the early schools of Deloit:

November 4th, 1856, Morris McHenry began a three and one-half months term of school in a log school house in Mason grove, one half mile east of where Deloit is now located. This schoolhouse had puncheon floor, slab seats for benches (the scholar furnishing his own back), slab desks, a dirt fireplace, with a chimney built of mud, cut hay and fine brush. The teacher was paid by donations from the scholars and parents. The following is the list of pupils enrolled the first winter as near as can be determined:

John Dobson, *Joseph Dobson, *William Dobson, *Elihu Dobson, *Cyrus Dobson, *George Johnson, Noah Johnson, Margaret Mason, *Angeline Mason, Alice Laub, *Henry Winans, Elizabeth Winans, *Sarah Winans, George Winans, Martha Mowery, *Mary Mowery, *Caleb Mowery, *Joseph Skinner.

* Deceased.

Mr. McHenry taught the second term also, which was held the following winter, 1857-8. I believe the lady who became his wife went to school to him those two terms.

J. D. Seagrave and E. S. Plimpton taught in that log schoolhouse, one term each, at least.

In the year 1858, Esau McKim and William McKim, his brother, built a frame store building in Deloit which was rented and used for a school house the following year, the log schoolhouse being abandoned.

The store building was used for school purposes until 1864 when a one room brick schoolhouse was completed. Miss Jennie Darling (Mrs. Col. Geo. L. Wright, of Denver), taught the first term of school in the town of Deloit, 1859.

One winter Ed. M. Ainsworth housed and taught 75 scholars in the historic brick schoolhouse.

In the year 1870 a one room frame school building was built near the brick schoolhouse and was then called "The Deloit Seminary." Two teachers were employed that year for the first time in the history of the school.

About the years 1870 and 1871, the Deloit schools prided themselves on being as thorough and as far advanced as any schools in the country.

The following well known citizens attended school in the "Seminary": Eli T. Dobson, John L. Ainsworth, John R. McKim, Miss Kate McKim, James McKim, George Myers, Ninus L. Hunt, Charles J. Hunt, Jennie Morris-Hensen, Ellen Dobson-Horr, Edith Shirtcliffe-Ainsworth.

The brick and single room frame buildings were abandoned in 1886, when a two room frame building was erected. This house is still in use but must soon be supplanted by a four room building to accomodate the growing school.

Deloit became an independent district May 2, 1908. The first directors were Ellsworth McNeal, president; Abram N. Galland, Francis H. Brogden, Myron Myers, Henry Dethman. Stanley Browne, secretary; R. D. Darling, treasurer. The establishment of the independent district is due in a great measure to the persistent efforts of J. Stanley Browne.

Miss Jennie Morris, now Mrs. R. Hensen, taught a greater number of terms—eighteen in all—than any other teacher in the Deloit schools. A. G. Meyers also taught many terms.

The Deloit school has had many staunch friends who have stood for efficiency and advancement among the most prominent of whom may be named Thomas Dobson, Ethan A. McKim, Benjamin F. Darling, William J. McKim, Geo. L. Wright, Ninus L. Hunt, J. Stanley Browne.

School enumeration 93, enrolled in the schools about 80.

Present board: Samuel Anderson, president; C. W. Winey, L. F. Morris, Fred Hansohn, Earl Winans, secretary, C. J. Hunt, treasurer, Bert Darling.

The teachers of 1910-11: Advanced grades, Miss Bertha Tittsworth; primary, Miss Eunice E. Dobson.

Value of school building, \$1,000. No indebtedness.

THE DENISON SCHOOL.

The first school in Denison was taught in the winter of 1857-8, just one year after the town was platted. The schoolhouse was a small building about 14 by



HIGH SCHOOL, DENISON



NORTH BRICK SCHOOL, DENISON



WEST BRICK SCHOOL, DENISON

20 feet, located on the ground where now stands the mansion of Mr. W. A. McHenry. The teacher was one Thomas Aldrich, who later was village postmaster. The second teacher was a lady whose name cannot now be determined. She was very successful and the fame of her school brought pupils from far and near, some from adjoining counties. The little schoolhouse was found too small and in the winter of 1859, the school was moved into the courthouse, occupying the north half of the lower floor. These quarters were soon found too limited and the courtroom above was occupied instead.

In the summer of 1861 a brick schoolhouse was built in the west part of town, H. C. Laub, contractor. After fifty years of service, it is still standing, No. 320 W. Chestnut St., is in good repair and still does duty as a schoolhouse, having been occupied by the Lutheran parochial school since the middle of the '70s. Here the school was moved in the autumn and H. C. Laub taught the winter term of 1861-2. In February, 1862, he closed the school to enlist in the Home Guards.

I. T. Martin was the next teacher, but how long he taught cannot now be determined. He was followed by a returned soldier of the civil war, disabled through sickness, J. H. Woodruff in 1865. A. D. Clark followed, 1866. Before the close of the year Clark resigned and H. C. Laub finished the term. John Funk was next on the list, 1866-7, and then A. M. McNeal, 1867-8.

In the early days of Denison lady teachers were either at a discount or difficult to obtain; but now appears one, Miss Jennie Haskell, 1868-9, beloved of her pupils and whose name is held in memory green by a number of elderly citizens of Denison. She was succeeded in 1869, by L. E. Hardy. In December of that year on account of large attendance the school was divided, Mrs. Hardy teaching the primary classes in the courthouse. During 1870-1, Col Geo. L. Wright was principal of the school. Of this year's work the Colonel thus writes in a recent letter: "Chas. Morris was my assistant and we both taught in the one room of the old brick schoolhouse in the western part of the city. I think you will find no parallel of two teachers for one year in one room anywhere in the history of the public schools of Crawford county. It was a pleasant year to us and I think not entirely devoid of benefit to our students, as I found Mr. Morris to be a faithful and conscientious teacher. There were in the neighborhood of 80 pupils enrolled, and I think we were paid \$40.00 and \$35.00 per month."

In November, 1871, the school opened with Rev. G. W. Gunnison as principal and Miss Louise Grout in the primary. At this time J. W. Denison was director. During the '60s A. D. Molony and A. F. Bond had served on the board. If there were others there is no record to establish the fact. Gunnison taught the winter term only. The Misses Grout, Louise and Nora, taught the summer term. The primary school during the year had occupied a small frame building that stood where No. 217 West Broadway now stands. Sometime before this the school board had purchased an entire block in the west part of the town on the plateau overlooking the Boyer valley and had contracted with Mr. Laub for the erection of a two story brick schoolhouse at a cost of \$15,000. It was to contain four school rooms, cloak rooms, and basement. The population of Denison was then hardly 600, yet the schoolhouse was one of the finest in west-

ern Iowa. It was to have been completed by September, 1871, but unforeseen delays occurred and the building was not finished until November, 1872. The township school board in 1872, consisted of the following named gentlemen: George Chapin, L. Cornwell, M. Moloney, Sr.; R. Heffelfinger, Albert Marshall, Joseph Gilbreath and Charles Ainsworth, the last named representing the township of Goodrich which had not yet been set off from Denison township. The board was a unit in its desire to give the sub-district of Denison every opportunity to establish a first class "Union Graded School" in the new building and granted \$60.00 per month for a principal and \$40.00 per month for an assistant, quite liberal salaries as salaries went in those days.

Mr. Heffelfinger selected as his teachers Z. T. Hawk, of Sigourney, Iowa, for principal and Miss Emma Wheeler of Denison for assistant. Miss Wheeler resigned at the close of the winter term to resume her studies at Ames and Miss Julia King finished the term. The school moved into its new quarters the sixth of November, 1872, and the work of organization began. A course of study such as was adapted to the existing conditions was prepared and classification made to conform to it in a general way. It would be regarded as a curiosity by the teachers of to-day yet it throws much light on educational methods of the time. There were then scarcely a hundred graded schools in Iowa and by far the greater number of those that were organized based their classification on the readers in use in the school and did not specify the limit of work to be accomplished in a term or a year. Promotions were made when the reader was completed to the satisfaction of the principal. The following is the work of the second grade, intermediate department: "National Third Reader, spelling and dictation, Ray's Intellectual Arithmetic commenced, Practical Arithmetic commenced, Guyot's Elementary Geography completed, Hadley's Language Lessons, writing.

An extended outline for oral work in nature study was embodied in the Denison course and was given much attention in the lower grades. This schedule of work was formally adopted by the board in October, 1873, thus giving to Denison the distinction of having the first graded school between Jefferson and Council Bluffs.

A third teacher was employed in the fall of 1873, the assistant now being Mrs. M. A. Jones, primary, and Miss Ella Child, intermediate. It may safely be said that no other Denison teacher has ever been so intrenched in the affections of her pupils as has Mrs. Jones. Her skill in teaching the little ones, her motherly solicitude for their comfort and welfare and, above all, her utter effacement of self in all that pertained to the happiness and success of those about her, endeared her alike to the children and her associates. And now, in the declining years of her long and busy life, there gathers each year at her pleasant home, a company of middle aged men and matrons to talk over again with their beloved teacher, the happy days of long ago. She remained connected with the school until 1879.

In March, 1874, Mr. Hawk resigned and Miss Allie M. Cowdrey (Mrs. Judge Conner), finished the year. The winter term of 1874-5, was under the management of J. F. Escher. In March, 1875, a heated campaign for director resulted in the election of C. H. DeWolf, and Z. T. Hawk again became princi-

pal. In July of this year the school held its first industrial exposition, an event that attracted wide-spread attention and brought many people interested in education from distant points to examine the exhibit. The next year the experiment was repeated with even greater success and there was some talk of establishing a department of manual training and domestic economy in connection with the school. But the idea was in advance of the time, money was scarce and, greatest difficulty of all, trained teachers in these lines were not to be had—in fact they did not then exist, and the plan was dropped before it had fairly taken shape. It was a prophetic dream of the splendid future of the Denison school—a dream that began to be realized just thirty years later, 1905, and was still further developed in 1910, by the establishment of the departments planned so long ago. There is undoubtedly a great pleasure in being “in at the finish” in the upbuilding of a great enterprise, but there is also profound satisfaction in having been “in at the start” and in knowing that the start was in the right direction.

A number of these exhibits were held in later years, the last being in Germania Halle in 1884, until they were revived by the Germania Verein in 1896. Since that time they have been practically a part of the annual work of the school.

In 1875, the enrollment in the high school was as follows: Lewis De Wolf, Henry Stovall, Charles K. Meyers, Ella Familton, Carrie Fegtley, Nellie Wightman, Issora Palmer, Josie Welch, Mattie Wagoner, Carrie Wygant, Alma Herri-man, Lucy Miles, Carrie Plimpton, Kate Moloney, Marcus Jones, Lonnie Chapin, Frank King, Mary Pett, Mary Burk, Mary Molony, Mary Palmer, Nellie Morrill, Adelbert Jones, Wm. Wakeham, Fred West, Morris Wygant, Edmund Woodruff, Dennis Woodruff. Total enrollment in the four rooms, 234. Teachers: Mrs. M. A. Jones, primary; Miss Lillian Barr, intermediate; Miss Emma Wheeler, grammar; Z. T. Hawk, high school. Director, C. H. DeWolf.

April 12, 1876, the district voted in favor of an independent organization; and on May 11 the following board was elected: C. F. Cassady, W. J. Wagoner, E. S. Plimpton, Morris McHenry, Wm. Iseminger, and J. B. Romans. Wagoner was chosen president, A. F. Bond, secretary, and R. Heffelfinger, treasurer. The teachers of the preceding year were reelected and Miss Julia King was added to the corps. The primary school was divided and half of it removed to Mrs. Jones' residence on E. Vine street where she furnished a room and taught for \$50.00 per month. The school remained under the same management until March, 1878, when Mr. Hawk resigned to assume the duties of county superintendent. Mr. C. C. Chamberlin succeeded him and taught three months. G. N. Vanwormer took charge of the school in September, 1878, and remained two years. The course of study had been remodeled in 1877 and the work given a definite form. The plan adopted gave the school eleven years, primary school, four years; grammar school, four years, and high school, three years. Vanwormer preserved this organization as did his successor, M. Booth, who was superintendent from 1880 to 1882.

The growth of population was so rapid that the board found it necessary to provide more room. A two story frame building of two rooms was erected on E. Chestnut street in 1879, and an additional grade teacher employed. In

three years the capacity of this building was doubled by adding two more rooms. The west room in the second story was the home of the high school from 1882 to 1890, and a small room about 10x12 feet in size, originally designed for a cloak room, was the superintendent's office.

The board now conceived the idea of establishing a normal school in connection with the public school and looked about for a competent and experienced man to carry the plan into effect. They chose Prof. C. W. von Coellen, ex-State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and gave him a corps of experienced and enthusiastic teachers as his aids. But the indifference of the community toward the contemplated plan was such as to preclude all hope of success, and von Coellen, disappointed in his hopes of founding a normal school, tendered his resignation in April, 1883, and Z. T. Hawk, who had acted as principal in the "West Brick" during the winter, was elected to fill out the remainder of the year.

In von Coellen the school lost an accomplished scholar and able supervisor. Had he been given an assistant in the high school and an opportunity to carry out his well matured plans for the improvement of the school the history of education in Denison would have been greatly changed.

The membership of the school board in 1883 was as follows: J. Fred Meyers, president, M. Smith, C. Green, Geo. L. Wright, A. J. Bond and Gus Anderson. D. L. Boynton was secretary and R. Heffelfinger treasurer.

Supt. Hawk was a candidate for reelection but the first meeting of the board showed a tie vote between him and Supt. Coleman of Missouri Valley. The deadlock continued until late in August with many candidates in the field. Finally the patrons of the school were canvassed for an expression of their wishes. Nearly a hundred votes were recorded, only seven of them being against the reemployment of Mr. Hawk. The board, with its 149th ballot, promptly ratified the choice, August, 1883, and within a week the new superintendent entered upon his duties. He submitted to the board his plan of carrying classes through to graduation, a plan then almost unheard of outside the larger cities, and they gave it their hearty approval. The pupils were pleased with the prospect and bent every energy to the work before them. The school had no laboratory and no apparatus worth mentioning, but enthusiasm, ambition and loyalty to their teachers and the school overcame all difficulties, and in the midst of great rejoicing the first graduating class was given its diplomas, June 4, 1886. Many classes have come and gone since then—classes of earnest, accomplished young men and women—but it may truthfully be said that the classes that came out of that old high school made a record that was long the standard of comparison for those that followed.

The course of study was revised and published in January, 1884, and an assistant was first employed in the high school in the winter of 1884-5 when Marcus E. Jones served three or four months in that capacity very acceptably. A supervisor of music, Mrs. Clapp, was first employed in 1885. C. K. Dukes was high school assistant from 1885 to 1887, and when Supt. Hawk declined a reelection in 1887, Dukes was elected to succeed him.

In 1890 a fine high school building was erected in the northern part of the city at a cost of \$14,000. L. J. Carter was the architect and Wm. Raine the

builder. The building and grounds occupy an entire block. It contains four school rooms with two wardrobes each and the superintendent's office. It is heated by hot air and steam.

In 1891, Supt. Dukes was succeeded by A. C. Warthen who remained at the head of the school two years. He was followed by N. Spencer, 1893-'97. Spencer revised the course of study but the high school work was not materially changed.

On retiring from the superintendency of the Denison schools in 1897 Spencer made a very complete report of his work, embodying not only the statistics of the school for four years, but also the history of various original investigations in the field of child study. Considerable space was devoted to reports of experiments to determine the comparative value of the senses of sight and hearing and also to investigations into the effects of the tobacco habit on boys from the fourth grade to the high school. "Out of 126 boys in the classes reporting, 44 used tobacco in some form, and in varying quantities. On an average the tobacco using pupil is one year behind in school work." He reaches the same conclusion that is reached by every superintendent who investigates this subject: "Good mental work and free use of tobacco by boys is impossible." The total enrollment of the school for the four years was as follows: 1893-4, 588; 1894-5, 555; 1895-6, 575; 1896-7, 585. Number of teachers employed, 14. The members of the board of education in 1897 were A. J. Bond, R. Knaul, E. S. Plimpton, L. A. Sewell, B. Y. Nicholson, L. M. Shaw, President, D. L. Boynton, Secretary, M. E. Jones, treasurer.

H. V. Failor was promoted from the high school to the superintendency in 1897 and retained the position until 1900. In January, 1898, a kindergarten was organized and Miss Elva Dell Bond, a trained kindergarten teacher, was made director. The school enrolled 80 pupils in 1900. At first Miss Bond's assistants were untrained, but in 1900 and succeeding years, trained assistants were elected. In 1905 a second kindergarten was established in the "West Brick." Miss Nell Stoner was director of this school three years, Miss Vera Fluent two years. In September, 1910, the two schools were again united under Miss Bond. The kindergarten has now come to be considered as one of the most important departments of the Denison schools and under Miss Bond's most capable direction has attained a high degree of excellence. She has given upward of thirteen years service to the Denison kindergarten, and her determination to remove to the Pacific coast at the close of the present school year is much to be regretted.

For several years there had been an insistent demand on the part of the patrons of the high school that the course of study be extended to four years and that such branches be included in the work as would enable the graduates of the school to enter the State University or other great colleges of the state without being compelled to do two or three years of preparatory work before admission. The high school had taken no advance steps whatever in more than ten years other than to introduce a few new text books as the old ones became obsolete with the lapse of time. But in 1898, in answer to the popular demand, the fourth year was added and the school began to adjust itself to modern conditions.

In 1898 the various school buildings of the city were greatly overcrowded. To relieve the congestion the board determined to remove the old frame house

on Chestnut Street and erect in its place a large, modern building that would accommodate the high school, several grade schools and various special departments. March 13, 1899, the district voted to issue bonds to the amount of \$15,000. It was soon discovered that this amount would be insufficient for the purpose required and \$7,000 additional was voted, May 12, 1899. The plans for the new building were drawn by the W. R. Parsons Sons Co. of Des Moines. The building contract was let to J. F. Atkinson of Marshalltown, Iowa, for \$22,500. The board extended the school grounds to Washington Avenue on the east by purchasing the Kirkup and Helsley properties, three lots for \$3,150; and on the west by the purchase of two lots from Mrs. Familton at \$1,600. The schoolhouse was erected at the corner of Washington Avenue and Chestnut Street and the other lots were graded for play grounds. This central high school building is of brick, two stories in height, with basement. It contains a high school room, five recitation rooms, eight grade schoolrooms, superintendent's office, laboratory, library, workshop for manual training classes, and cloakrooms. There are closets in the basement with sewer connections. It is heated by hot air, circulated by a fan driven by a gasoline engine. The plant cost \$3,310. The seating of the various rooms cost \$750. Total cost exclusive of grounds, \$26,560. In obedience to instruction received from the people at a special election held in November, 1909, the board purchased for \$4,000 the remainder of the Familton property, at the corner of Chestnut and Locust Streets. The district thus came into possession of the entire south half of block 83, an ideal school location in the heart of the city.

The high school was moved into its elegant new quarters in January, 1900. Being no longer hampered for want of room the teaching force was increased and the departmental plan of work inaugurated, a most important step in the evolution of the school.

Failor having declined a reelection, the board chose H. H. Savage, to succeed him, 1900. The selection proved to be a most fortunate one. Supt. Savage's qualifications were of a high order, he being a graduate of both the Iowa State University and the Iowa State Teachers' College. His candor and fairness won for him the admiration and enthusiastic support of his assistant teachers and made him the idol of the pupils from the primary to the high school. During the five years of his supervision, 1900-05, the Denison school became known as one of the very best in the state. Having been offered a much better salary than Denison could pay and a wider field for the exercise of his talents, he accepted a call to Waterloo, 1905. The next year while teaching in a summer school at Cedar Falls, his health suddenly gave way and he died soon after, mourned by hosts of school children and a state wide circle of friends.

Prof. Savage was followed in 1905 by Prof. E. W. Fellows, a graduate of Grinnell college and who had many years experience in school work. He came to Denison from Clarion, Iowa and through his thoroughness, his attention to detail, and his genius for organization, he has been enabled to realize for the schools of Denison many of those things which had been but dreams and longings with his predecessors.

In 1906 the Manual Training department became a fact as well as a name and Prof. Jacob Johnson was selected to head this department. Mr. Johnson

has been able to make this the most popular branch of the school work. It has now passed the stage of experiment and faddism and would no more be dropped from the course of study than grammar or arithmetic. Under his direction many of the youths have developed remarkable ingenuity and many of the finished products are worthy of an experienced cabinet maker. The manual training department is located in the first floor of the high school building. There are 16 work benches, all equipped with requisite tools for the individual pupil, and all necessary tools for the general work of the department have been provided. So far the work has been confined to courses in drawing and wood work. From the outset the boys are allowed to work on objects of value which they intend to complete. This induces accuracy and neatness and painstaking care. All boys in the Denison schools have this instruction from the 4th grade to the 8th. In the high school it is optional, but its popularity is shown by the fact that about 50 per cent of the boy students take this work. From the rough unfinished lumber are made foot stools, library tables, dressers, piano benches, and many other articles.

In 1909 the department of Domestic Science was established. This embraces courses in sewing and cooking. Girls of the 7th and 8th grade take this work. Though comparatively new this course has proven very popular. Miss Grace Warner, now Mrs. J. E. Shaw Van, having been a very efficient teacher with whom the schools were loath to part. The credit for the strength of our present high school is largely due to Principal C. E. Humphreys, who has been the principal for the last 6 years and who is dearly beloved by all his pupils. The enrollment of the Denison schools, for the years 1910-11 was 746. There are 15 grade rooms and the high school. Twenty-five teachers are employed and we are pleased to state that the teaching corps has maintained a very high standard throughout. Aside from the regular grades and high schools there are the kindergarten, manual training and the domestic science departments already mentioned and the music department under the management of Miss Beatrice Lally.

At the commencement exercises in June, 1911, Mr. R. Knaul, a veteran member of the school board presented the diplomas to the graduates. In so doing he gave some facts and statistics in connection with the schools which are of interest. Mr. Knaul said that this was the 25th graduating class and the 12th to graduate from the 4 year course. The first class to graduate was in 1886 and it contained but 5 members. The smallest class was in 1891 and contained but 2 members. The first six classes totalled 22, while for the last six years the total number of graduates has been 133, an average of a little more than 22 per year. The last three classes have averaged nearly 24. In 1901 there were but three teachers employed in the high school including the superintendent. There are now six teachers who give their entire time to the high school and three special teachers who give about one-third of their time to high school work. Twelve years ago the first class graduated from a four year course with 32 credits. The later high school courses now afford a maximum of 49 credits so that a pupil to take all the work afforded could make the regulation number of 8 credits per year for 6 years and then lack one credit of having completed the list.

Much attention has been paid to scientific courses and the laboratories and apparatus are complete and satisfactory for the scope of the work undertaken. The school library has already been mentioned and, in connection, the splendid resources of the Carnegie library are at the command of the student and are freely used. The schools are lacking in provisions for physical culture, but the attention of the board has been directed to this for some time and it is altogether probable that a good gymnasium will be the next feature added to our schools. We believe that Denison has every reason to be proud of its public school system and that the people of the district have received full value for the large amounts which they have expended without hesitancy and without complaint. The personnel of the board of education is as follows: Albert Helsley, President; N. L. Hunt, R. Knaul, B. Y. Nicholson, Carl F. Kuehnle. Mr. George A. Richardson was secretary of the board for many years but following his demise, Mr. W. C. Rollins was selected for that position. Many of the teachers have been engaged in the work here for a long series of years and a large number are themselves alumni of the Denison school. The senior teacher in point of service is Miss Emma Raine, who was a graduate of the class of 1886, and who, with the exception of one year, has been a member of the teaching force continuously since that time. The graduates from the Denison schools are admitted without examination to the state university and to the standard universities of the United States. Each year an increasing number of the youth of the county are taking advantage of the educational facilities which Denison affords and our excellent schools have done as much as any other thing to induce the most desirable people to locate in Denison permanently. The following is the list of those who have graduated from the Denison schools since 1886.

ALUMNI DENISON HIGH SCHOOL.

Class of '86—F. W. Meyers, Emma Raine, Mattie Moloney, Lillie Plimpton, *Fannie Fulick.

Class of '87—William Plimpton, Leon Cassady, Mattie Miles, Mary Wrigley, Melvin Smith.

Class of '88—Lois Plimpton, *Clara Rumsey, *Harry Shillington.

Class of '89—Robert P. Plimpton, Jettie Pauline Wilkinson, W. C. Cramer, Martha Hird.

Class of '90—*Harry P. Wilson, Elva D. Bond, Gertrude Gulick-Voss.

Class of '91—Gordon Gary, Olive Gillmor.

Class of '92—Gertrude O. French, Lillian McWilliams, Marcella L. Barrett, Maggie Raine-Christensen, Sarah J. Temple, Edith Clouser-Garrison, J. K. Sewell, Dollie Romans-Bradley, Artie M. Potter, Edna B. Stephens, James B. Barrett.

Class of '93—Hope V. Smith, Florence E. Wygant, Anna E. Quaid, Hattie A. Weeks-Garrison, Louise A. Carter-Seymour, Albert E. Miller, Mark F. Wright.

Class of '94—Maurice A. Schofield, Sadie Kinnan, George J. Lass, Hattie M. Schofield, Kate A. Goodrich, Edgar Jackson, Maude A. Hall, Charles E. Robinault, Birdie M. Raine-Jordan, Wallace D. Huff.

* Deceased.

Class of '95—Mertie Iseminger, Hattie Rowland, Gaylord Weeks, Frona Kinnan, Grace Baer, Edith Gillmor, Victor Danielson, Abbe McHenry, Andrew Randall, John Klinker, Harvey Volkmann.

Class of '96—Louie Hensen, Kate Kelly, Jennie Austin, Doty Flack, James Luney, Iva Smith, Maude Bryan, Edward Gable, Minnie Balle, Minnie Marshall.

Class of '97—Grace Aylsworth, Orpha Marshall, Mabel McAhren, Allie Greene, Mearl Gable, Harry Carpenter, Harry Wygant, Francis Gable, Paul Hensen, Susie Craft.

Class of '98—Edmund Clayton, Blaine Hunt, John Romans, Emma Clayton, Frances French, Minnie Kelly, Faith Pierce, Eugene Mueller, Chester Potter, Nettie Chapin, Olga Mueller, Anna Warbasse, Calla Richards, Addie Randall.

Class of '99—

Class of 1900—Ralph Cassaday, Robert Ewall, Fay Marshall, George Morris, Chester Potter, Ray Randall, James Walker, Frank Young, Ferdinand Ranniger, Fannie Hayes, Mae Hayes, Florence Kirkup, Grace Raine, Allie Sewell, Grace Temple, Mary Walker, Ethel Williams, Sara Watson.

Class of 1901—Edna Ione Hoagland, Effie Lucretia Myers, Florence Margaret Odell, Willetta Georgia Strahan, Harold Glenn Van Winkle, Horace Whitening Gregory, Carrie May Morris, Carrabel Chapin, Mary Effie Norris, Irene Grace Garber, Isabell Edna Marshall, Edna Lucy Gilbreath, Harry Renard Morris, Myrtle Frost M'Cormick, Luella Valetta Cole, Ethel Lou Gulick, Charles Hugh Gable.

Class of 1902—Garnett Romans, Carrie Elcenia Klick, Mildred Ethel Bowen, Foster Harris Pierce, Traffer G. Walker, Minnie Anetta Craft, Alma Olinda Olson, Emma Marguerite Carter, Clifford Alonzo Randall, Chester Arthur Orr,

Class of 1903—Jennie Leora Luney, Helen Lucile Hayes, Mary Annette Miller, Helen Rachel Garber, Jennie Isabel Brown, Lour Clarence Sage, Lillian Marie Miller, Lorenz Lorenzen, Anna Babette Schlumberger, Beatrice Martha Kirkup, Samuel Russel Cole, Ruby Arelene Osborne, Florence Mary Wearmouth, Albert Henry Riepen, Edith Myrtle Kelly, Cora Pauline Kuhl, Frederick Herman Soehl, Clifford Charles Merrill, Townsend Adelbert Pearson.

Class of 1904—Francis Myrtle Inghram, Hilda Louise Brodersen, Florence Susan Hutchinson, Mamie Edith Bell, Jenna Rood Strahan, Myrtle Annette McAhren, Dollie Elizabeth C. Faul, August Lenzen Moeller, Mabel Adel Smith, Marian Force Sriver, Marie Florence Shaw Van, Rose Marie Clarke, Valerie Gertrude Matthews, Aubra Alberta Walker, John Temple Kirkup.

Class of 1905—Sarah Edith Staley, Mary Alice Silletto, Garnet Lucile Norman, Katherine Millicent Silletto, Edna Vera Raine, Anna Margaret Jurgens, Josephine M. Leonard, Mary Cecelia Burch, Effie Laura Kuhl, Mary Elizabeth Luney, Leona Elsie Grantz, Marie Eugenia Naeve, Alfred Carl Rohwer, Herman Frederick Woock, John Wilfred Moloney, Herbert Alton Thew, Robert F. Romans, Carl Brian Richardson.

Class of 1906—Lillian Elizabeth Aebischer, Helen Louise Burch, Margaret Cecelia Clarke, Jetta Lillian Gilbreath, Harriet Lillian Hall, Anna Myrtle Heiden, Anna Elizabeth Jacobson, Lydia Mae Klick, Edna Hazel Laub, Mabel Julia Merrill, Marie Erma Rath, Clara Strahan, Alexander Aebischer, Josephine J. Collins, George B. Danielson, Katherine Marie Henry, Frank H. Lally,

Charles Davie Luney, Florence Ellen Muir, Hugh Blaine Nash, Stewart Alexander Sriver, Ethel Effie Orr, Leslie Frederick Reiter, Loretta Ilda Van Ness.

Class of 1907—Florence Elizabeth Baker, Grace Marie Bamford, Birdie Olive Berg, Pearl Edna Gary, Mary Elizabeth Giss, Williams Benjamin Harding, Mabel Charlotte Horton, Ethel Grace Hunter, Anna Mabel Kelly, Edmund Andrew Luney Edith Mill, Allie Belle Morris, Janet Marie Muir, Hazel Roe Nash, Lewis Henry Redenbaugh, Margaret Brunhilda Rohwer, Grace Mildred Schlumberger, Emily Agnes Schneckloth, George McHenry Seeman, *Clarence David Schooley, Albert Weiss.

Class of 1908—Agatha Helen Brummer, Emma Mae Chrestensen, James Collins, Alys Lee Detrick, Malcolm Heiden, Leona Martha Henry, Erma Hildebrandt, Blandid Marie Lally, Margaret Mae Minter, Martha Caroline Otto, Laura Ida Pearson, Rowland Frederick Philbroo, Oliver Weston Saul, Clara Ethelwynne Sriver, John Albert Silletto, Gladys Elizabeth Tucker.

Class of 1909—Hedwig Fredricka Brodersen, Carl C. Caswell, Sylvia A. A. Cochran, Edwin Arthur Cushman, Frank J. Enright, Frieda Fastje, Spencer A. Heiden, Edith Jacobson, Lydia Belle Kuehnle, Frank R. Menagh, Erma G. Naeve, Ward T. North, Nellie Grant Orr, Frank E. Ransom, Guy E. Romans, Alice Romans, Warren B. Romans, Amanda A. E. Schnoor, Eva R. Senseney, Luman P. Sewell, Katharine Sims, Della Verne Stocking, Oscar W. Strahan, Irene Louise Van Ness, Clara Louise Van Tull, Pearl J. Wilson.

Class of 1910—Alfred Howard Bowen, Mary Grace Coan, Nellie B. Collins, Alva William Dannels, Frankie Ernestine Faul, Amelia Emma Haskins, Marguerite Mary Haugh, Anne Sarachon Hooley, Alice Menita James, Inez Clare Lally, Winifred Weld Wright, Jessie May Luney, Fred William Lyon, Laura Elsie Marshall, Elsie Marie McAndrews, Margaret Miller McHenry, John Alden Moeller, Ruby Winifred Norman, Pearle Estelle Rank, Alice Ellen Saul, George W. Schelm, Mabel Ray Tuper, Elizabeth Sybil Woodruff.

Class of 1911—Veronica Ellen Adams, Clarence Bell, Ruth Vera Cole, Robert Lyman Cochran, Ethel Henrietta Cook, Clara Ann Cecilia Connor, Emma May Connor, Clara Cecilia Claudine Curry, Jessie Frances Hayes, Nellie Gladys Hoffman, Charles Warren Helsley, Nelson Edwin Lafferty, Eunice Caroline E. Meyers, Julia Amelia Nordholm, Lillian Quade, Florence Rice, Pearle Ina Richardson, Magdalena Augusta Rachwitz, Hilda Wilhelmina Rath, Charles James Saul, Marjorie Sims, Mildred Audrey Terry, Emma Fern Wells, Dorothy Elizabeth Wilcox.

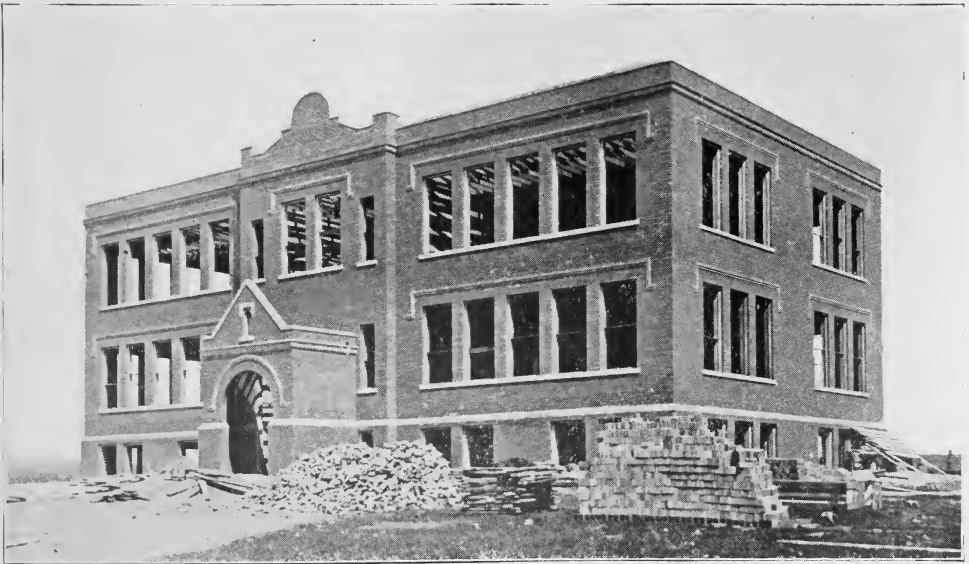
THE VAIL SCHOOL.

Late in the autumn of 1871 the school in Vail was opened by Miss Mary DeWolf (Mrs. A. L. Strong) in a small frame structure that stood on the hill where the large schoolhouse now stands. She taught one year. The winter term of 1872-3 was taught by her brother, John H. DeWolf.

As near as can be determined, William Bennett was the first director. He was followed by Dr. James DeWolf, and at the spring election in 1873, DeWolf was superseded by Geo. H. L. Head. At the meeting of the electors that year it was voted to ask the district township for \$800.00 to build a larger school-



FLOOD AT VAIL, AUGUST 15, 1910



NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL, VAIL

house. The records of the sub-district from 1873 to 1877 are lost, but the house was built probably in 1874.

Miss Belle Moore taught the summer school in 1873 and Freeman Knowles the winter term. From April, 1874, to April, 1875, C. A. Morrill was the teacher. Both Knowles and Morrill were painstaking and successful teachers and the Vail school took a high place among the schools of the county.

In March, 1875, J. S. Riggs was chosen director and Ed. M. Ainsworth was invited to take charge of the school. Although the pay was only \$35.00 per month, he accepted and entered at once upon his duties. The next seven years constitute a notable period in the history of the Vail school. Himself a pioneer, Ainsworth understood pioneer conditions and knew how to meet them. His exacting discipline, his skill in the class room and his untiring energy together with the enthusiastic support of the patrons gave the school a wide popularity and brought many pupils from surrounding country and even from a distance.

The rapidly increasing population of the village made another teacher necessary and Miss Ella Hovey was installed as assistant in January, 1876. Steps were at once taken to erect a more commodious schoolhouse and the contract for a four room building was let to J. L. McClellan in 1877 for about \$3,000. The old house was sold to Mr. Wagner and moved down to the main street of the village where it still stands. It is now occupied by G. E. Dingman as a drug store.

A course of study, formulated by Ainsworth, was adopted about 1876. It was modeled after that of Denison, adopted in 1873 and was followed in the main by the successive principals down to 1888.

In March, 1879, J. P. Fitch was elected director and a few weeks later, when the district became independent, he was elected president of the newly chosen board. The other members were Dr. Ed Darling and L. P. Mooney. G. A. W. Davison of the Observer was secretary and E. B. Bannister treasurer, under the new organization. Mr. Fitch served continuously on the board for the next seventeen years, the greater part of the time as its president. No better school man than J. P. Fitch ever served on a school board in Iowa. His excellent judgment and ceaseless vigilance went far toward maintaining the high standing and popularity of the Vail school for many years. He kept in close touch with the teachers and was ever their faithful friend and adviser.

In 1881 all four rooms in the schoolhouse were in use. In November of that year Ainsworth was elected county superintendent but did not resign from the school until the next May. William Stevens was elected to the principalship for the remaining two months of the year. June 21 the board endeavored to elect a principal for the ensuing year but without success. Sixty ballots were taken all resulting in a tie between William Stevens and G. D. Jones. Pres. Fitch, Dr. James DeWolf and James McAndrews supporting G. D. Jones; C. H. Britton, James B. King and P. J. Casey voting for Stevens. Two other meetings gave like results. At the suggestion of Pres. Fitch, efforts were made to have the county superintendent select the principal, but he declined to interfere. The State superintendent recommended R. M. Briggs of Floyd, and after several meetings, he was elected, but Briggs in the meantime had accepted a position elsewhere and declined to come to Vail. This opened up the whole matter

again and the board decided to refer the choice to the patrons of the school. A paper was accordingly circulated calling for an expression of the wishes of the people and Stevens having a large majority of votes was elected Aug. 14, 1882, and given a salary of \$80.00 per month. His assistants were Miss Abbie Bailey, grammar room, Miss Eva Gilman, intermediate, Miss Lizzie Platt, primary. Miss Nellie McErlaine, a ninth grade pupil, was assistant in the grammar room a portion of the time. In 1883 the opposition to Stevens was again active and after several tie votes, he lost his position the second time to a nominee of the state superintendent, Miss F. M. Lawrence, of Des Moines.

Miss Lawrence held the position but one year, being succeeded in 1884 by L. L. Lowery, and he in turn was displaced in 1885 by the former popular principal, E. M. Ainsworth. But the law had more attraction for Ainsworth than the school room, and at the June election, 1886, the board placed Geo. W. Hogle, a former pupil, at the head of the school. In five years the school had been under the management of as many different principals and comparatively little had been accomplished in the higher grades. Hogle's vigorous administration of nearly two years did much toward restoring the old time prestige of the school. He resigned in March, 1888, to enter the profession of medicine and S. T. Mears of Laporte City was chosen to finish the year.

Mears' administration lasted three years and was eminently successful. He thoroughly reorganized the school and gave it a new and modern course of study. In 1891, he graduated the first class, an event that greatly aroused the enthusiasm of the school and patrons. Much to the regret of the board, Mears declined a reelection and M. A. Zollinger was chosen his successor, May, 1891.

Zollinger introduced German into the course of study and taught a class in that language during the year with marked success. He graduated a fine class at the end of the year.

The principalship was now tendered to Z. T. Hawk, of Denison, with the understanding that he should reorganize the school, draft a set of rules and regulations for its government and prepare a complete course of study for all the grades. The new schedule of work was adopted by the board, Feb. 1893. The grade teachers, 1892-3, were Miss Margaret Regan, primary; Miss Annie Quirk, intermediate; Mrs. Emma W. Hawk, grammar. This administration lasted eight years with various changes of grade teachers. Miss Regan's first service in the primary department dated as far back as 1883, when she taught a term or two under the supervision of Stevens. She reentered the same grade under the supervision of Mears and continued in the school until 1897. Miss Emily McAndrews taught the first grades, 1897-8 and was followed by Miss Kate Connor who remained in the primary room a number of years. A very large number of the grown up boys and girls of Vail look back with pleasure and gratitude to the time when Maggie Regan or Kate Connor guided their first uncertain steps in the wonderful world of school.

In the intermediate grades Miss Quirk taught one year 1892-3, Miss Susie Flynn, 1893-4, Miss Nellie V. Haas (Mrs. Wm. Watson) 1894-8, Miss Alice R. Miley 1898-1900. These teachers all gave the school most loyal and efficient service. Mrs. Hawk remained in charge of the grammar department for eight years,

sending into the high school, year after year, classes so thoroughly trained in habits of independent thought and investigation that they mastered the more difficult work of the high school with ease, finishing the course with great credit to themselves and the school.

Mrs. E. T. Ryan was elected director of music in 1893 and taught one year. Miss Margaret Short assumed the duties of director in 1894 and taught until 1900 with the exception of one year. Miss Stella Fitzsimmons was director 1900. Miss Short again from 1901 to 1905. Since that time the school has been without a special teacher of music, the regular teachers giving instruction in that branch. Mr. Hawk retired from school work in 1900 and was succeeded by S. W. Myers. A long and severe illness incapacitated him from work and William McGuire finished the year for him. B. M. Taylor was at the head of the school two years, 1901-3. F. F. Gordon served from 1903-7. He drafted an elaborate course of study and manual for the guidance of the teachers. It provided for the teaching of Latin and gave the high school four years, but the work of the fourth year so far has been omitted and the classes graduated at the end of the third year. It is proposed to add the fourth year when the school moves into the new house now being erected.

In 1906 an additional primary teacher was employed and a room rented for the school in the business section of the town.

Gordon was succeeded as principal by E. L. Ferrier, 1907-09, and he by J. M. Fouts, the present incumbent. In 1909 an assistant principal was employed and the principal given more opportunity for supervision.

The school having outgrown its present quarters the board early in 1910 decided to lay before the people the proposition to bond the district for the purpose of purchasing more extended grounds and building a larger and more modern house. At the first election the proposition was lost, but later in the summer at a second trial it was carried by a safe majority, its success being due mainly to the efforts of the women who made a vigorous campaign for larger play grounds and better school rooms. Beautiful grounds have been purchased in the north-western part of the village and the house will be ready for occupation by the first of September. G. M. Zitteral of Fort Dodge has contracted to build it for \$15,500. G. M. Badley of Carroll has contracted to install a steam heating plant with 45 horse power boiler for \$3,200. Change of plans necessitated by the introduction of steam heat will cost \$500 more. The district is bonded for \$9,000. The house is built of brick and is two stories in height with basement for heating plant. It contains seven class rooms, superintendent's office, waiting room, laboratory, library, teachers' room, and the usual cloak rooms. Messrs. Barber and Glenn of Denison are the architects.

The school is well supplied with apparatus and possesses a library that is the pride of the town. It consists of nearly 700 volumes that have been selected with great care by various principals, assisted by committees of the board. The first selection of books was made in 1882, by Ainsworth and Pres. Fitch.

In the list of grade teachers in the Vail school are to be found the names of many teachers who were exceptionally well qualified for the positions they held. Besides those already mentioned the following named teachers were at various

times connected with the school: Miss Eva Gilman (Mrs. Geo. DeWolf), Miss Mollie Snodgrass, Miss Nellie Wightman, Miss Lizzie Platt, Miss L. M. Burlinghame, Miss Abbie Bailey, Miss Edith Shirtcliffe, Miss Anna DeWolf, Miss Anna Beck, Miss Emma Loechner, Miss F. M. Snook.

The teachers of the next eight years have already been mentioned. In the new century were W. A. McGuire, now president of the board, Miss Claussn, Miss Clara Dobler, who has taught a number of years in the intermediate, Miss Evelyn Sherwood, several years in the primary, and Miss Esther Ringold, also primary. The teachers the present year are: Superintendent, J. M. Fouts, salary \$100.00 per month; Principal of high school, Miss Grace Wilcox, salary \$50.00 per month; grammar department, Miss Nan Mitchell, salary \$50.00 per month; second intermediate, Miss Clara Dobler, salary \$50.00 per month; first intermediate, Miss Elsie Hunt, salary \$50.00 per month; primary, Miss Esther Ringold, salary \$50.00 per month.

The list of the names of the directors reads like a directory of the representative and leading citizens of the town. As before noted J. P. Fitch served many years as president, Dr. James DeWolf always a leader in good works also served as president. Other directors in the '80s were O. S. Retan, Josiah McHenry, E. B. Bannister, G. W. Nicholson, A. A. Leachey, T. J. Hoffman, and W. W. VanVleck. In the '90s were M. J. Casey, E. T. Ryan, C. H. Westbrook, John Hickey, John Cranny, Henry Gronemeyer, Adam Short, Clark E. White, Thomas Adams, James McAndrews, C. Paine, Chas. M. Dugan, Dr. Ed. Darling.

The present board is as follows: W. A. McGuire, president; Adam Short, Clark E. White, J. F. Kral, Dr. J. M. Glynn, J. Monaghan, secretary.

Roll of the Alumni:

1891—Loraine Shove, Nellie Haas, Alice Miley, Theresa Kral.

1892—Edward Rhodenbaugh, Anna Thomson, Gertrude Dobler, Thos. Giblin.

1893—Geo. Dodler, Louise Lochner, Merwin Sherwood.

1894—Bessie Haas, Herbert Gilman, Lulu Hulce, James Harkins, George Thomson.

1895—Eveline Fitch, Julia Sherwood, John Nelson, John Thomson.

1897—Frank Sherwood, Lucy Smith, Maude Paine, Minnie Dillenger, Grace Evans.

1899—Lillian Price, Christena Nelson, Evalyn Sherwood, William Rowley, Andrew Gallagher.

1900—Robert Thomson, Lilly Maynard, William Adams, Clara Dobler.

1902—Katherine Fitzgerald, Mary Fitzgerald, Lester Rowley, Thos. McCormick, William McCullough, Edward Fitzsimmons.

1903—Carl Taylor, Benjamin White, Cora Adams, Albertine Grover, Jay O'Reilly.

1905—Catherine Dobler.

1906—Cyrus Dunlap.

1908—Cecil Palmer, Anna Mae Dillenger.

1909—Edw. Mitchell, Agda Wahlin, Nellie Marshall, Kendall Dobler.

1910—Albert Chamberlin, Helen Kral, Hazel Knowles, Luella Vennink, John Kemmey.

THE DOW CITY SCHOOL.

Just forty years ago there came to Crawford county from Ohio, a young man named Wm. A. Bain. He was looking up some land that had been given him by his father if he would improve it and settle down to a steady life. He was sent to the Rae brothers, George and Thomas, and thus fell into good hands. His land proved to be a quarter section adjoining the Rae farms. The brothers boarded him and helped him with his work through the summer of 1871 and in the fall got the Dowville school for him. The district had built a new schoolhouse that summer and Bain taught the first term in it. He was a graduate of the Ohio Wesleyan University and proved himself an excellent teacher. In accordance with the time honored custom of the frontier some of the larger boys of the school had planned to give the teacher a "dressing down" as an initiation into the dignities of his office. But the dressing down was all the other way. With calmness and firmness the teacher gradually subdued the turbulent element and much good was accomplished during the year.

The next year a Mr. Sherratt had charge of the school, then for two years, 1873-75, John Nevell was the teacher. In 1874 Mrs. Schofield was employed as assistant. She, like Bain, was a graduate of the Ohio Wesleyan University and exerted a strong influence for good over her pupils. She remained in the school until 1877. Beginning in 1875, Geo. Burton was the principal teacher one year, then R. G. Francis one year. In 1877 E. W. Pierce took charge of the school with Miss Maggie Gibson as assistant. This practically marks the beginning of the Dow City graded school. In 1878 the district erected a four room frame schoolhouse, though only two rooms were used until 1882, when a third teacher was employed. The old schoolhouse was sold to the Latter Day Saints who still use it for church purposes. Pierce was very successful, not only in training the intellect of his pupils, but also in developing a high standard of morals in the school.

J. T. Archard was principal in 1879. He was followed in 1880 by C. H. Brake. Brake's term of service lasted seven years and was a period of marked progress in the school. The district became independent in 1882 with S. E. Dow, L. E. Hardy and George Rae as directors. E. W. Pierce was secretary and A. Graves, treasurer. In 1884 the number of assistants was increased to three and all the rooms of the schoolhouse were in use. When Brake retired from the school in 1887 it was thoroughly graded and was widely known as an excellent institution of its class.

In the next four years the school had as many different principals—J. C. F. Harrington, E. E. Nichols, B. W. McKeen and J. H. Vierth. In 1892 Miss Mosher took charge of the school and remained at its head four years. J. M. Canfield, who held the position of principal through a stormy period of two years, was succeeded by Maurice Schofield, 1897-8. In that year a two-story two-room addition was built on the north side of the main school building and a director of music, Miss Blanche Wise, was employed. T. R. Schafer was principal three years, 1898-'01; J. R. Bagge, two years, 1901-'03; D. B. Prather one year, 1903-'04; H. D. Kies, four years, 1904-'08; J. A. Gillaspie one year, 1908-'09, and Prin. C. C. Bunch the present incumbent, two years.

Dow City has long followed the commendable policy of retaining through a series of years those grade teachers that do satisfactory work.

Of the earlier assistants Miss Maggie Gibson (Mrs. Frank McHenry), Miss Lottie Kalb (Mrs. Heath), Miss Emma Kalb, Miss Maggie Kevan (Mrs. P. W. Harding), are among those best remembered. Miss Anna Balsiger, very successful as a primary teacher, was in the school five years; Miss Ellen Scott six years, Mrs. Mary Schafer five years, Miss Agnes Bell six years, Miss Lida Sands eight years, Mrs. Carrie Robinson six years, Miss Ellen Goddard eleven years, Miss Mildred Wiggins thirteen years.

The first class graduated from the school was in 1895. The following is the list of the alumni:

1895—Lou Crandall, Charles Booth, Lily Burns.

1896—Blanche Wise, Ella Cleasby, Mamie Cleasby, Guy Whaley, Arthur McColl, Bessie McColl, Fred Butler, Don Talcott, Olive Town, Asa Butterworth.

1899—Emma Wiggins, Decky Wiggins, Anna Walters, Anna Wood, Ada Hallowell, Gertie Arnold, Jennie Rae, Eva Hillebrant.

1900—Frank Howorth, Martin Goddard, Stella Riddle, Sylva Evans, Ingey McColl.

1901—Otto Crandall, Gene Wiggins, Julian Butterworth, Jennie Talcott.

1902—Alma Riddle, Pearl Riddle, Bernice Alexander, Hilda Turnlund, Ellen Scott, Inez Hallowell, Arthur Butterworth.

1904—Winnie Wiggins, Addie Sharp, Vera Dow, Ross Rudd, Oscar Edwards, Ward Butterworth.

1905—Joe Hallowell, Herbert Fishel, Laura Scott, Royce Heath, Neva Crandall.

1906—Susie Vore, Gertie Logsdon, Harold Alexander, Stella Butler, Rita Odell, Rena Brake, Ola Wiggins, Golda Dow, Mabel Sharp, Burton Evans, Virgil Butterworth, Elmer Riddle, Leo Sprague, Agnes Goddard, Willie Walters, Kate Turnlund, Robert Fishel.

1907—Hugh Butterworth, Nette Wiley, Alfreda Gloe, Nell McDonald, Merton Thomas, Daisy Robinson, Alice Poitevin, Lola Fishel, Vinnie Rudd, Jay Field, Fred Glassburner.

1908—Jennie Hallowell, Ora Butterworth, Edward Wigg, Sylva McColl, Rhea Cummings, James Turnlund, Althea Wiley.

1909—Grace Thomas, Flora Wiggins, Bessie Griffin, Edna Fritz, Ferne Butler, Mildred Butterworth, Morris Wilder.

1910—Edward Butler, Vernon Talcott, Ava Butler, Golda Lee, Birl Logsdon, Raymond Butterworth, Mabel Cole, Ferne Johnson.

1911—Jennie Chamberlin, Esther Turnlund, Frank Honz, Vera Paul, Bessie Walters.

The present grade teachers are Miss Jennie Strahan, Miss Mildred Wiggins, Miss Ellen Goddard, Miss Hilda Turnlund. High school, Miss Grace King, Miss Helen Hayes, Principal C. C. Bunch. The principal receives a salary of \$900.00, the other teachers an average of \$56.66 per month.

The high school course of study is four years and includes two years of Latin.

The school population of the district is 183. Enrolled in the school, 168, in the high school, 53.



ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, VAIL



VAIL SCHOOL

The present board of directors is St. Clair Butterworth, Wm. Rolls, H. Logsdon, Ed. Riddle, and E. N. Chamberlin. Secretary, Eugene Wiggins; Treasurer, W. E. Fishel.

WEST SIDE SCHOOLS.

The first school in West Side was taught in 1873. The school room was a carpenter shop. If the first term was taught in the summer, the name of the teacher cannot be determined; but if it was a winter term the teacher was Miss Mattie Snodgrass, for it is a matter of record that she was teaching in West Side in November of that year. The next year the district built a schoolhouse of regulation type and size—a one story frame, 24x36 feet. The number of pupils increased rapidly and an addition of 16 feet was later built to it. Here Freeman Knowles was teaching a crowded school of 40 or 50 pupils in 1875 and it is needless to say he was doing it well. He taught several terms, just how many is not known. Records are silent as to what other teachers had the school after Knowles until 1879 when George Worcester, an accomplished scholar, was the principal.

A new schoolhouse was built in 1880. In 1882, T. C. Branson was principal. Mrs. C. K. Ford and Miss Lottie Truesdale were the grade teachers. Branson was an enthusiastic and thorough teacher and gave West Side an excellent school. He was retained four or five years.

The independent district was organized in 1881 with the following board of directors: President, L. Schofield; directors, I. B. Nelson, S. T. Boynton, Carl Wiedling, R. Wagner, and R. B. Taylor. Freeman Knowles, secretary; Henry Evers, treasurer.

A. V. Storm, late president of the Iowa State College at Ames, was principal of the West Side school in 1885-6. J. L. Rose from 1886 to 1890. He did such good work that Carroll took him away from West Side and made him superintendent of her own schools. W. L. Hearst followed Rose with three years of service, 1890-'93; then came A. C. Chapman, 1893-'95;—Brones, 1895-'96; B. G. Hess, 1896-'99. F. L. Hoffman was principal from 1899 to December 1903, when he resigned to assume the duties of county superintendent. Then followed Edgar D. Lewis from January, 1904 to 1905; R. D. Barr, 1905-'09, and O. E. Vogenitz, the present incumbent, 1909-'11.

The work of the high school is provided for in three courses of four years each—Latin, Scientific and English. The teaching force consists of the superintendent, O. E. Vogenitz; principal, Myrta Mercill, and assistant principal, Angie Pierce. The grade teachers are Nora Dickerson, grammar department; Emily Matousek, second intermediate; Christine Anderson, first intermediate; Jennie Hannigan, primary.

The superintendent's salary is \$1,000; principal's \$60.00 per month; balance of teachers, \$50.00 per month.

The present board of directors, Henry Dohse, president; F. F. Brown, M. J. Campbell, H. H. Sievers, Emil Evers. Secretary, E. B. Spottswood; treasurer, J. H. C. Peters.

Enumeration of district, 159. Enrolled in the school, October, 1910, 115.

Valuation of the school building, \$6,500. Value of apparatus \$1,000. There are 430 books in the library. The district is in fine condition financially and has no outstanding indebtedness.

LIST OF GRADUATES.

- 1895—Ed. Carter, Fred C. Bock.
- 1896—Lulu Wagner, Henry Suhr, Jennie Schneckloth, Thomas Carter, Theo. Schoenjahn, Frank F. Brown, Jessie Campbell, Ella Lawler, Bertha McConnell, Ernest McConnell.
- 1897—Peter Sievers, M. J. Peters, E. B. Spottswood.
- 1898—Thos. Buton, Jr., Violet Lewis, Mamie Hall, Beatrice Gary, Lulu Woolhiser.
- 1899—E. J. Peters, Carl A. Bock, W. T. Dohse, Walter Schoenjahn, Herman F. Martens; Lillie White.
- 1900—Alice Woolhiser, John Kruse, Curt Eiffert.
- 1901—Dan Smith, Nettie Ohnsman, Emma Suhr, Mable Haworth, Henry Bock, Laura Kracht, William Suhr.
- 1902—Alicia Lawler.
- 1903—Martha Eiffert, Kate Truesdell, Lillian Graves, Robert Herre, William Campbell, Frank Gary, Harry Moeller, Arthur Peters.
- 1904—Claude Peters, Jessie Martens, Harry Pahl, Margaret Buton.
- 1905—Alice Dobler, Marie Mumm, Alice Jensen, Mariette Gary, William Greves, Linn Woolhiser, Louise Martens.
- 1906—No class.
- 1907—Leroy Dohse, Robert Gulick, Jennie Hanna, Laura Suhr, Elmer Martens.
- 1908—No class.
- 1909—Raymond Peters, Alfred Dohse, Clara Evers, Grace Pacholke.
- 1910—Emil Suhr, Irene Dohse, Grace Tarp, Gertrude Stiner, Paul Eiffert.
- 1911—Ella Eiffert, Frank Dobler.

THE MANILLA SCHOOL.

The independent district of Manilla, containing the second largest graded school in the county, was erected in 1889, with the following board of directors: George Bidlack, president; G. D. Brokaw, John Bayles, E. A. Biglow and Chas. Wenzel. Secretary, Frank Garlock; treasurer, I. W. Collamore.

Prior to the establishment of the independent district C. G. Heifner was principal of the school from April, 1887, to June, 1889. In the next four years the school had four principals in succession, A. B. Clouse, C. F. Garrett, E. A. Kreger and Q. A. Woodward. Garrett graded the school, but its first course of study was made two years later by C. J. Colden, who was principal three years, 1893-96. A. J. Jones and A. J. Meyers each held the position one year. P. M. Hersom served three years, 1898-1901. A. B. Carrothers two years and seven months, E. E. Nichols two months. J. C. Richter followed with three years of service, Miss Fannie A. Potter with half a year and D. H. Boot with two and

one half years. Supt. A. B. McClure, the present incumbent, ends the list with one year to his credit. In twenty-three years the school has had fifteen principals. Manilla evidently believes in rotation in office.

The first school building was erected in 1889, the second in 1892, the third in 1898. Value \$20,000. Value of apparatus, \$1,000. Volumes in the library, 1000. School enumeration, 1910, 379. Enrolled in the school 364. The district has no indebtedness. The present membership of the board is as follows: J. F. Carnahan president; F. A. Jackson, J. W. Calvin, A. J. Barrow, H. Schneider. R. R. Sutton, secretary; F. L. Van Slyke, treasurer.

The present teachers are: Primary, Miss Abbie Cook, \$60.00 per month.

Second and third, Miss Bessie Saunders, \$50.00 per month; third and fourth, Miss Jessie Pease, \$55.00; fifth, Miss Martha Hird, \$55.00; sixth and seventh, Miss Grace Kinner \$50.00; eighth Miss Emma McCleer, \$60.00. The high school, principal, Miss Mame R. Prosser, \$75.00; Latin and English, Miss Zetta Higgins, \$65.00; Miss Georgie Gardner, \$50.00.

Miss Abbie Cook has been a member of the corps of teachers for twenty years, an unusually good record. The first class was graduated in 1892. The following is a list of graduates:

The following is a list of graduates.

1892—Jessie Pease, Ollie Andre, Maye Roderick, Abbie Brown, Laura Bidlack, Mattie Bidlack, Essie Neff.

1893—Maude Brokaw, Gertrude Neeley, Stella Olson, Jennie Woodard.

1894—Sylvia Hoff, Florence Bacon, Emmet Bills, Fred Brown, Will Scanlon, Myrtle Bunce, Nettie Bidlack.

1895—William Bergman, Edward Scheam, Roy Bigelow, Herberts Saunders.

1896—No class.

1897—Harry Norris, Carrie Thorpe, Grace Thompson, Edna Stewart, Anna Seckman, Guy Campbell, Ethel Sachra, Grace Brown, Ella Bidlack.

1898—Maude Bacon, Minda Crakes, Robert Graham, Howard Hughes, Carl McLaren, Cicero Morgan, Myrtle Paup, Ernest Slagg, Hattie Slagg, Mary Thorpe, Myrta West, Wilton Woodard.

1899—Mollie Pease, Inez Slagg, Lola Arnold, Ralph Gleiser, Cora Slagg, Lulu Campbell, Effel Hermance, Alta Webster, Mildred Ruby, Leon Woodard, Minnie Campbell, Dawn Thompson.

1900—Warren Gleiser, Anna Heicksen, Cora Kuhl, Amy Thompson, Harry Schram, Claude Breckenridge, Eva Woodard, Mattie Buffinton.

1901—Ira O. Tweedy, Gertrude M. Brokaw, Jessie M. Westbrook.

1902—Celia Brown, Emma Crakes, Dwight Hutchinson, Agnes Hoes, Belle Winters, Mae Winters, Lottie Woodyard, Nellie Woodard, Stella Lyon, Frank McCracken, Carmi Anthony.

1903—No class.

1904—Emma Brown, Ethel Stewart, Francis Kerr.

1905—Sadie Saunders, Arley Saunders, William Saunders, Ida Sowles, Eva Thorpe, Cora Chamberlin.

1906—Ray Grimes, Grace Gardner, Leo Naeve, Forrest Theobald, Ray Thompson, Muro Van Meter.

1907—Mary Eberle, Katie Frederickson, Arthur Packard, Victoria Saunders, Hugh Thompson, Robina Theobald, George Willis, Lula Willis, Frank Hutchinson, Charles Saunders.

1908—Alden Sykes, Hoyt Cooper, Caroline McCracken, Leo Slagg, Lillian Hoes, Don. J. Dunn, Bess Saunders, Forrest Reed, Clara Morgan, Harry McCracken, Gladys Crakes.

1909—Arta Draper, Sylvia Cooper, Lorene Jackson, Everett Dyson, Eula Emery, Dora Schroder, Nina Sykes.

1910—Marie Palmer, Ellen Palmer, Hazel Dempster, Ruth Robertson, Arbor Reed, Nora Collins, Edith Van Meter, Minda Tillett, Sadie Carrothers, Alfred Calvin, John Leuth, Lowell Brokaw, George Stoker, Harry Hoffins.

1911—Myrtle Barber, Mabel Barber, Albert Hutchinson, Eva Bliven, Anna Nelson, Fanny Paiste, Lillie Schroeder.

THE CHARTER OAK SCHOOL.

The independent district of Charter Oak was organized in 1888, with W. A. Duncan president, R. J. Hart, Theo. Drake, C. H. Weed, Carl Schurke, W. P. Mulheron as the first board of directors. Secretary, C. A. Wiltse; treasurer, A. L. Rule.

Block No. 5, Harrison's addition to Charter Oak, was purchased for grounds and building. Bonds to the amount of \$5,000 were issued and a four room schoolhouse was erected in 1889. After the formation of the independent district, school was held over the Riedesel furniture store with Albert Healy and Jessie Rule as teachers. In the fall of 1889 school began in the new school building with C. H. Brake as principal, with a corps of three assistants. In 1891 Brake resigned. W. J. Savage succeeded him, serving two years.

In September, 1893, C. F. Garrett took charge of the school. He was an educator of more than average ability, making the Charter Oak schools rank with many older and wealthier towns in western Iowa. In 1895 a four room addition was built to the schoolhouse and six grade teachers were employed. Garrett gave much attention to the commercial aspects of education and for a number of years the work of the high school bore a strong resemblance to that of a business college. That his plans met with popular approval is attested by the fact that he was retained as principal nine years. He gave the school its first regular course of study in 1893. In 1896 he revised the course, giving the high school four years, leading Denison in that respect by two years. Some minor changes have been made since then to meet changing educational conditions. He sent out the first graduates from the school, a class of nine, in 1895.

The principals following Garrett were W. B. Thornburg, W. S. Mitchell, M. H. Hoffman, and D. D. Carlton, each serving two years. H. M. Stiles is principal elect to assume control in September, 1911.

The school owns a piano and has competent musical instruction; has a well equipped chemical and physical laboratory, and a library of about 300 volumes. The school population of the district is 279. In October, 1910 the enrollment in the schools was 207.

The present corps of teachers is D. D. Carlton, principal; Nellie Snow, Assistant principal; J. J. Coleman, director of music; Florence Drake, Clara Pruchs, Edna Stolt, Nellie Routrong, Frances McKenzie. The principal receives a salary of \$1,100 per year. The average monthly salary of the assistants is \$61.00.

The present board of directors is as follows: Dr. G. S. Waterhouse, President; E. H. Weed, Thomas Thomsen, J. H. Riessen, and P. F. Fiene. C. A. Mains, secretary, and B. C. Jacobsen, treasurer.

The schoolhouse is provided with fire escapes and is heated by two furnaces. Estimated value of school property \$31,000. The district is entirely free from debt.

ALUMNI OF THE CHARTER OAK HIGH SCHOOL.

F. J. Mulheron, Alice Bates, Jessie Andrews, Grace Butterworth, Mila Andrews, B. B. Criswell, Nellie Drake, Bessie Shadduck, Mamie Glassburner, Vie Pennell, Goldie Thompson, R. R. Weed, Winifred McKinstry, Lydia Wertz, Anna Deter, Guy Frary, C. C. Jacobsen, Fred Stough, F. M. Deter, R. C. Riedesel, Minnie Lowe, Pearl Bates, D. M. Torrey, Carl Hagge, Cora Robertson, Minnie O'Doherty, Asa Jones, E. L. Butterworth, E. M. Hardy, Katharine M. Arff, C. A. Maines, R. L. Senift, Edna Romans, Daisy Glassburner, Bertha Roman, C. M. Morris, W. S. Adams, W. H. Riedesel, Earl Shreve, E. C. Junger, L. B. Romans, C. J. Roup, R. C. Roup, Goldie Crone, O. G. Kemp, T. F. McGrath, Ora McGee, J. A. McFarland, Elsie Butterworth, J. C. Jacobsen, Iva Bliss, Anna O'Doherty, Nellie McGrath, Clayton Romans, J. K. Adams, Jennie Patterson, Clara Roberts, Dorr Shreve, Verna Weed, Dick Hart, Katie Torrey, Nellie Robertson, L. A. Jacobsen, S. H. Penrod, Carrie L. Drake, F. J. Glassburner, C. H. Vollersen, Alyce Arff, Elsie Kevan, Daisy Hardy, Matie Bolieu, Chas. P. Drake, Grace Mains, Mattie Schelm, Alvena Jacobsen, Grace Glassburner, L. S. Goin, Mabel Bornholdt, Arthur Jacobsen, Clara Pruehs, R. L. Probasco, Edith Schelm, Garnette Vollersen, Estelle M. Arff, Fae E. Goin, Mary Irwin, Albert C. Jacobsen, Omar McWilliams, Ethel Sturges, Fanchon Probasco, Mabel Riedesel, Piatt Hart, Wm. Morris, Dan R. McGrath, Pearl Wilson, Maylou Richards, Cora Irwin, Frances Waddington, Chas. Smith, Mabel Irwin, Thos. Thomsen, Else Thomsen, Amalia C. Adams, Beulah Crone, Jess Kuhlman, Otto Hoefer, Carl Sturges, Parker Rose.

THE SCHLESWIG SCHOOL.

The first school in Schleswig was taught in the hardware building on Main street in 1900, while the village was still district No. 4, Otter Creek township. Wm. Stegeman was the first director. In the spring of 1901 the independent district was organized with Theo. Rohwer as president of the board and with A. J. Boock, H. H. Boysen, Christian Kruse, Detlef Wieck as his associates. C. C. Walters was secretary and H. C. Moeller, treasurer.

Twice during the summer the district voted bonds of \$5,000 for a schoolhouse and twice were they declared void because the district could not be bonded for such a large amount. The citizens then signed two notes of \$2,500 each and the house was built. It contains four rooms, and an office, is conveniently arranged and is steam heated. The location is one of the finest in the town.

School opened in November, 1901, with Prof. F. N. Olry as principal and Elizabeth Breshwald as the primary teacher. The plan of organization gave the school eight grades. The district is probably the smallest in Iowa comprising only 160 acres. At that time the school population was 98.

Mr. Olry remained at the head of the school until January, 1911, when he resigned to assume the duties of county superintendent. He wrote the first course of study for the school in 1902, revised it to meet the growing demands of the school in 1905, and again in 1908. It was rewritten in 1909 and provides for eight grades and a three year high school course. Some agricultural work is included.

The first class to graduate was in 1904, and the list of the alumni is as follows:

1904—Nelle Frahm, Emma Hoiten, John Kruger; 1905, Fern Wells; 1906, Caroline Hollander, Ella Hoiten, Ella Peters, Ella Kruger and Edward Schroeder; 1907, Martha Stegemann, Jesse Kuhlmann, Minnie Hollander; 1908, Amanda Petersen, Letha Jones, Ella Witt, Maggie Rusch and Lulu Girard; 1911, Julius Rohwer and Emil Peters.

The schools at present are in charge of Prof. Earl Kramer, Miss Anna Flynn, Miss Mary Burch and Miss Anna Schnoebelen. The present officers are Theo. Rohwer, president; and A. P. Hollander, C. J. Claussen, Wm. Pipgrass and Aug. Rickett, members of the board. The census enumeration gives the school population as 107 and the schools have an enrollment of 89, which is an excellent percentage.

DENISON AND NORMAL BUSINESS COLLEGE.

As early as March 30, 1892, the Denison Review announces with much justifiable pride, "Some people profess to think Denison is a slow town, but there are few places in Iowa where \$16,000.00 can be raised for a Normal School in twenty-four hours. This was done in Denison on Friday of last week."

This is the first mention of Denison College, the institution with which we are all now familiar, and which, while it may not have accomplished all the great things which its founders hoped, has, nevertheless, been a steady, helpful, uplifting influence to Denison.

Denison College was to a large extent the creation of Gov. Leslie M. Shaw. He conceived the project, worked at it enthusiastically and contributed largely. In this, of course, he had the cordial support of nearly all the prominent citizens of Denison and, together, they conducted a whirlwind campaign.

The Review of April 6, 1892, records that \$20,000.00 have been raised and gives a list of subscribers all of whom gave none less than \$500, and one Gov. Shaw, as high as \$5000. On April 20th, the fund had passed the \$28,000 mark and on May 4, the list of stockholders is published showing a total of \$30,050.00.

The same week a meeting was held at Germania Halle, at which time committees were appointed, on articles of incorporation, building plans, site and water supply, and to solicit further subscriptions. H. A. Cook presided at this meeting and Gov. Shaw was the principal speaker.

On the following Friday a "Jubilee" meeting was held which was addressed by Gov. L. M. Shaw, Hon. J. P. Conner and Messrs. T. J. Garrison, Chas. K.



SCENE ON OTTER STREET, SCHILESWIG



SCHILESWIG HIGH SCHOOL

Meyers, P. E. C. Lally and others. It was decided to incorporate for \$60,000, and to purchase twenty acres east of town at \$100.00 per acre for the college, and 68 acres additional to be plotted and sold, the proceeds to go to the school.

Articles of incorporation were filed May 20, 1892. The first directors were L. M. Shaw, J. P. Miller, J. B. Romans, J. P. Conner, L. Cornwell, C. Sievers, T. J. Garrison, Carl F. Kuehnle, and H. C. Laub. The first officers were L. M. Shaw, president; H. C. Laub, vice president; D. L. Boynton, secretary; J. T. Haugh, treasurer.

Fisher and Lowry were the architects and George H. King the builder of the college building which was erected at a cost of \$35,000.

Arrangements were made for opening the school and announcement was made in November, 1892, that the school would open January 3, 1893. O. E. Whitten was president and J. H. Holmes secretary. Courses were announced as follows: Academic, Scientific, Normal, Commercial, Shorthand, Classical, Type-writer, Telegraphy, German, Elocution, Music and Art.

Something over \$5000 was secured by the sale of lots in College addition, prices ranging from \$18.00 to \$125.00 per lot.

The Normal opened January 3, 1893, with an enrollment of thirty-five. H. H. Klinker was the first pupil enrolled, the others being Louie Kemming, Arthur G. Johnson, H. F. Michaelson, Ira E. Gilmor, Edgar Garrison, Theo. W. Carter, Peter Burke, Lafayette Biggs, Albert Anderson, Mira Harkness, Eunice Hauptman, Nellie Johnson, Geo. A. Bauman, John P. Woodruff, Cora Walters, Howard Wilson, Walter Schultz, John Watson, Edna Simmerman, Kate M. Shope, Joseph C. Robinson, A. Rouiliard, Ruth E. Richards, Aug. Owens, C. F. Nord, Henry Meyers, Ethel Miller, Oren McAhren, Maggie Hassett, and Eva McAndrews.

The faculty consisted of Prof. E. Whitten, Prof. Schoonover, Miss Ott, Miss Green and Prof. J. H. Holmes.

Prof. W. C. Van Ness came to the school from Ohio in the summer of 1893, and has been the successful and popular head of the college ever since. The business management of the college was in the hands of Mr. J. H. Holmes until the close of 1900. Prof. Van Ness and Prof. L. C. Rusmisl conducted the school together the following year and since 1901, Prof. Van Ness has had entire charge.

The regular faculty consists of seven instructors and the regular sessions cover a period of 40 weeks, to which is added a summer term of five or six weeks. This summer school is particularly adapted to the needs of teachers in the rural schools.

The departments of the school are Normal, Academic, Commercial, Shorthand, Typewriting, Music and Oratory. In the Normal work instruction is given especially to those who wish to teach. The Academic courses prepare students for the universities and if the students wish, they can take the first year of regular college work.

Complete business college work is carried out in full in all lines of Commercial studies; office equipment and all necessary books and forms being provided.

The music department is equipped with separate rooms in proper conservatory plan and instruction is given in voice, piano, harmony, and full music studies.

Oratory covers literature and rhetoric and physical culture as well as work in proper delivery and readings. Chemical and physical laboratories are equipped with all the necessary apparatus and arranged for laboratory work for the individual pupil.

A fair working library is at the disposal of the students which is supplemented by the splendid city library. The first installment of books and cases for the college library was donated by Hon. H. C. Laub, and since that there have been generous additions.

From 250 to 300 different students receive instruction at this institution during the course of each year. Including the class of 1910 there have been 309 graduates and the class of 1911 consists of twenty-five members.

The present officers of the Normal Association are, Gov. Leslie M. Shaw, president; Hon. J. P. Conner, first vice president; T. J. Garrison, second vice president; D. L. Boynton, secretary, and J. T. Haugh, treasurer.

The faculty at the present time consists of W. C. Van Ness, A. M., principal teacher of Greek, Science and Pedagogy. Miss Ruth Watson, A. B., preceptress, teacher of Latin and German. Miss Loretta I. Van Ness, teacher of Mathematics and History. Mr. Floyd Preston, B. Acc., principal of Commercial and Shorthand department. Miss Hazel McFarland, A. B., B. O., principal of department of Oratory and English. Miss Eda Critz, B. M., principal of Music department. Mrs. Genevieve A. Branno, instructor of Violin. Supt. O. E. Vogenitz. Miss Fannie Hayes, special teacher of summer term.

CHAPTER XXV.

THE SOLDIERS OF CRAWFORD IN THE CIVIL WAR.

Crawford county did its full share in the war of the rebellion. More than twenty men went from this county and they represented fully twenty per cent of the men of military age. Distant several hundred miles from the railroad at the beginning of the war, receiving their mail by pony express at infrequent intervals, struggling almost bare-handed with the difficult problems of pioneer life, with heads and hearts fully occupied with the struggle for existence, the early settlers of the frontier were outside that great maelstrom of public excitement which engulfed the remainder of the nation. In 1860 the pioneers gathered at the little log school in Mason's Grove and a majority of them cast their vote for Abraham Lincoln, but it was weeks before the result of that election was known, and still other weeks before the great effects of that election were even guessed at by this far-off people. Thus it was that while armies were being enlisted and battles were being fought, this little community, almost a world by itself, pursued the even tenor of its way until gradually more than a year after the opening of the war the real magnitude of the contest, the fact that their country and their flag were in danger dawned upon the people of western Iowa. The first visible effects of the war in this vicinity came not from Fort Sumter, but from the increased hostilities of the Indian tribes. The men of Crawford county were confronted first by the peril to their own homes and their own loved ones through the direful rumors of Indian massacres. It was not until August, 1862, that the first war meeting was held in Crawford county. Unfortunately we have but the most meager record of this meeting. We know that a second meeting was held in September, and that at this time a subscription was raised for the benefit of the volunteers, for we find in an old diary of Mr. Morris McHenry that he attended this meeting and that he subscribed ten dollars toward the fund. At this meeting there were two volunteers, John Appleman and A. M. Scott. Scott we know was killed in the war. The subsequent fate of the other young man we do not know. The next meeting was held more than a year later, on December 25, 1863. The call of the president had been issued for three hundred thousand additional men. Each state was assigned its quota, and the state in turn made its demand upon the counties. It was a point of pride and patriotism to meet this demand, and each county vied with the other in the promptness and com-

pleteness of its response. The board of supervisors met to consider the call of the president and to provide the quota from Crawford county. A bounty of three hundred dollars was offered for volunteers. The preliminaries were arranged during the forenoon and in the afternoon the men of the settlement gathered in a solemn and earnest meeting, looking furtively from one to the other, asking without words, who should be the ones to go.

Uncle Daniel Howorth made a patriotic speech asking for volunteers and A. J. Bond was the first to step up to the enrollment list and inscribe his name. He was followed by six others, there being seven who volunteered at this time, but only five were accepted, namely, Chauncey Prentice, Simeon Strong, Jack Munson, Henry Franks and A. J. Bond. S. P. Gardner and a man by the name of Foster volunteered but were not accepted. Mr. Bond had serious doubts as to whether he would be taken or not as in addition to his youthful age, he weighed but 120 pounds, and his left limb was badly scarred and shrunk as the result of a burn. The physical examination was conducted by a government officer, and it was not until the next day that he learned that he would be accepted. The party of young men left Denison for Fort Dodge on the 1st day of January, 1864, at a time when the thermometer was forty degrees below zero. They started with a four-horse team and got out about six miles when they broke down. They then came back to S. P. Gardner's place and got another sleigh and another team, making two loads of the party instead of one. The first day they made Ida Grove, getting in there late at night; the next day they made Sac City, and the next evening after nightfall of a bitter cold day they made Twin Lakes, only to meet with the information that the inn was full and they could not keep them over night, but the members of the party, who carried their own blankets, forced their way into the house and demanded the protection from the weather which had been denied them, carrying their point by right of might. The next morning they started for Fort Dodge, at which point they arrived late in the afternoon of the fourth day. They were housed in the old courthouse, a barn of a place which had one stove in the middle of the room upstairs. The weather was away below zero. For bedding the man who had taken the contract to care for them brought a load of straw that was full of snow and ice. He did not furnish sufficient coal to keep the fire going, so the boys stole coal and tore down parts of the courthouse fence to burn and helped themselves to such an extent that the citizens of the town took the matter up and required the contractor to give them proper shelter. Their fare consisted largely of coffee essence and hard tack, on which some of the party, including Mr. Bond, got sick, and altogether there was so much complaint that they got another man on the job of attending to their physical needs. They were in Fort Dodge about two weeks, during which time Mr. Bond became acquainted with the lieutenant of Company I, Thirty-second Iowa Infantry, who was recruiting for his company, and he, together with the lieutenant's son and five or six other boys, decided to join this company, although Mr. Prentice, who was looking out for him, wanted him to go with him and join the cavalry. Finally three or four teamloads of recruits started for Davenport, and the same man who had first had charge of furnishing supplies for the volunteers, had charge

of provisioning this party, and the same complaint was made against him as to the scarcity and inferiority of provisions that was made by the boys in Fort Dodge—in fact the boys quietly decided among themselves that they would “hang him,” and whispered threats to this effect reached him, so that he concluded that discretion was the better part of valor and vamosed, reaching Davenport considerably in advance of the party he was to conduct. Their dissatisfaction was well justified, as on the first day out under his charge they had no dinner at all; the second day they came to a house at dinner time and refused to go further until they had something to eat. The argument with him which followed was overheard by the lady of the house, who sided with the boys and gave them all a good dinner excepting the contractor, whom she refused to serve. She would not take a cent of pay, but the boys would not have it so and each left what little change they could afford on the dining table so that they gave her quite a little sum. The next stopping place was at Nevada, to which point, Mr. Bond states, if his memory serves him right, the railroad then extended. They went to a hotel but the owners were secessionists and would not keep the party, so that they were divided up into groups and housed in private homes. Mr. Bond, with four others, was sent to the home of Mrs. Laura Berry, whose husband had already gone to the war, and whose womanly sympathy and maternal care quite won the hearts of all the lads who promised to let her hear from them if they came through the struggle safely. She took all their names and assured them of her interest in their welfare; Mr. Bond records that twenty-five or thirty years after he got back from the war he saw and talked with her, and she remembered him as being the youngest in the party. She is now deceased and her husband lost his life on southern battlefields.

Recruits gathered at Davenport from all points, remaining there until a sufficient number accumulated to make up trainloads to send south. Our party was detained there to this end for some two or three weeks. The regiment which Mr. Bond had joined had been doing guard duty and had not been in the field as yet. Part of them were stationed at Island No. 10 and part in Kentucky, but the regiment was reunited as a whole at Vicksburg, when it was detailed to General Banks to go up Red river, and ninety days after entering the regiment, Mr. Bond was in the midst of the conflict when the charge was made on Fort Du Rosa. His next service was on a gunboat, running the masked batteries along the Red river, in which service for nearly two weeks they were under fire. Mr. Bond served with great credit during the remainder of the war and was finally mustered out in May, 1866, after which he returned to Denison.

We have spoken at some length of the soldier career of Mr. Bond, not because he was necessarily more brave or more patriotic than the others who enlisted, but because his record is typical, not only of the hardships endured and of the dangers faced, but of the earnest determination which made these “backwoods” boys meet neglect and coldness and travel by team through the rigors of an Iowa prairie winter in order to join the armies of the union.

It is impossible to give the detailed history of all the boys in blue who went from Crawford county. Still less is it possible to more than mention the many

veterans, who after the war made Crawford county their home. They deserve a volume by themselves. The record of each one should be preserved and handed down for generations yet to come.

The old soldier of the union inspires our most profound respect. No matter how feeble he may become, no matter how he may fall behind in the battle of life, no matter what may be his faults, or even his vices, we can never forget that he offered the supreme sacrifice of man, that of life itself, in defense of his country and his flag.

And while we honor the men who wore the blue from whatever state they come, let us reserve perhaps the highest measure of praise for the boys from the western frontier. Back in the eastern states excitement ran high, there were prodigious war meetings, flags were flying, bands were playing, officers in bright uniforms were at the recruiting stations, the war spirit was in the air, everyone was caught up and enveloped by it. It was a contagious spirit which lifted men out of and beyond themselves.

On the frontier it was different; cut off from the strong tides of public feeling with scant communication, more than a hundred miles from a railroad, with none of the "pomp and panoply" of war, with a little gathering at the courthouse, a speech, an appeal and seven young men stepped up and in cold blood signed their names to the enlistment roll. To us the very simplicity of the scene is more impressive than if it had been acclaimed by the cheers of a thousand men and the tears of a thousand women.

In the chapter on county government we have seen how the pressure became greater and greater, how the county made provision for the care of the families of volunteers, how at last the draft was resorted to and how the county paid as high as eight hundred dollars in bounties. In January, 1865, there were three more volunteers from this county. They were: M. Molony, Ward Goodrich and Thomas Alexander. These men went to Marshalltown to enlist, but found their regiment completed and later joined the One Hundred and Forty-seventh Illinois. Five others from Crawford county enlisted in Harrison county. These men were John M. Reed, W. M. Agens, Thomas Brown and Chauncey and Jacob Prentice. Had they enlisted from Crawford county the quota from the county would have been filled and no draft would have been necessary. Toward the close of the war the draft was used and Joseph Skinner, William Spence, John Rudd, Uriah Gable and William Goodrich were drawn. There were others who enlisted who were not accepted by the government on account of age, or physical defect. Mention must also be made of Mr. A. R. Hunt, who at the very outbreak of the war returned to his Nebraska home and enlisted, serving his country with great honor.

At the close of the war some of the enlisted men returned to Crawford county, but the majority of the survivors found homes in other places. Among the many who were attracted by the glowing prospects of the new west were a large number of those who had borne arms in the union ranks. These men became honored and dearly beloved citizens of the county, and are so identified with its history that we proudly claim them as our own, so that when we speak of the old soldiers of Crawford we have in mind not only those who enlisted from this county, but those who cast their lot with us after the close

of the great struggle. There follows a list which it is hoped contains the names of all the old soldiers, whether they enlisted from this county or whether they afterward honored this county with their presence. This list has been compiled with great care, being in part that published in 1885, together with information which has been obtained through the kindness of Mr. John L. Richardson, who as adjutant and as patriotic instructor of the Grand Army of the Republic has taken great interest in this roster of veterans. We believe that all of these men are entitled to a permanent place in any history of Crawford county, and we here accord it to them gladly.

The following is the roster of old soldiers:

LIST OF UNION SOLDIERS WHO HAVE RESIDED IN CRAWFORD COUNTY.

Abernethy, Alonzo, Lieutenant Col. 9th Iowa Inft.
Adams, John, 62nd Ohio Inft.
* Adams, Samuel —
Admire, James H., 65th Indiana Inft.
Agens, W. M. —
* Ainsworth, Joseph O., 32nd Wisc. Inft. Died Dec. 7, 1908.
Alexander, Joseph, 57th Ind. Inft.
Alexander, Thomas —
Alton, John W., 118th Ill. Inft.
Angel, H. P., 20th Iowa Inft.
Anthony, J. J. —
Appleman, John —
Atwood, Andrew, 62nd Ill. Inft.
Austin, I., 100th New York Inft.
Avery, W. H. H., 113th Ohio Inft., Capt. 42nd U. S. Colored Inft.
* Ailsworth, Byron, 7th N. Y. Sharp shooters. Died March 5, 1902.
Bacon, Julius W. —
Bachus, Frank, 3rd Ill. Inft.
Barber, John P., 14th Vermont Inft.
Bailey, J. J., 30th Wisc. Inft.
Barnes, Nathan, 83rd Ill. Inft.
Bannister, E. B., 105th Ill. Inft.
Bateman, Thos. —
Baer, S. A., 124th Penn. Inft.
Bartlett, Thos., 105th Ill. Inft.
Beedy, J. J., 27th Iowa Inft.
Bennett, Thos., 5th V. R. C.
Bennett, J. D., 112th Ill. Inft.
Beck, Christopher —
Beatty, L. C., 50th Pennsylvania Inft.
Bill, Jacob B., 1st Ill. Lt. Art.
Biggs, W. A., 55th Ill. Inft.
* Bidlack, E. T. Died May 4, 1910.
Bleakley Tobias L., 37th Wisc. Inft.

- * Blackman J., 52nd Ill. Inft. Died Jan. 15, 1910.
- Blackman, G. W., 50th Inft.
- Bock, F., 2nd Miss. Lt. Art.
- Bond, L. L., 13th Wisc. Inft.
- Bond, A. J., 32nd Iowa Inft.
- Bowmann, Wilson, 3rd Mass. Inft.
- Boeck, Henry, 2nd Iowa Cav.
- * Borden, Edward, 20th Iowa Inft.
- Branch, M. L., 184th N. Y. Inft.
- Brown, Thos., 31st Wisc. Inft.
- Brown, L. P., 29th Iowa Inft.
- Brown, James E., 24th Iowa Inft.
- Bronson, Isaac, Henshaws Battery Ill. Vol.
- Brockett, W. R., 14th N. Y. Inft.
- Brittan, D. W., 3rd Col. Cav.
- Buck, Wm. —
- Butterworth, C. E., 13th Iowa Inft.
- Buchecker, Dan'l, 25th Wisc. Inft.
- Burns, Richard, N. Y. Inft.
- Byam, Lorens, 28th Wisc. Inft.
- Casey, P. J., Single Service
- Case, B. W., 3rd Col. Cav.
- Carr, L. T., 21st Ind. Inft.
- Castenson, Robt. G. —
- * Cheeney, Itmar, Ill. Inft.
- * Chapin, David, War of 1812.
- Chase, R. J., 35th Iowa Inft.
- Chatten, John, 20th Iowa Inft.
- Clark, Isaac G. —
- * Clark, Dan'l, 22nd Wisc. Inft.
- * Conrad, F. J., 51st Wisc. Inft. Died Aug. 2, 1880.
- Conery, Rilan H. —
- Conaty, Wm., 46th Ill. Inft.
- Colamore, I. W., 21st Maine Inft.
- Cook, Archibald, 2nd Penn. Cav.
- Cook, George F., 1st Wisc. Cav.
- Cook, Samuel, 26th Iowa Inft.
- * Colpore, T. M., 1st Wisc. Inft.
- Comstock, Wm., 48th Ind. Inft.
- Crouch, F. L., 65th Ill. Inft.
- Crawshaw, A., 14th U. S. Inft.
- Crakes, Wm., 3rd Mich. Inft.
- * Crandall, Albert, 13th Iowa Inft.
- * Crandall, George, 13th Iowa Inft.
- * Crawford, John, 2nd Iowa Inft. Died April 23, 1903.
- * Cushing, J. P., 8th Mass. Inft. Died Feb. 11, 1881.
- Cue, Joseph, 65th Ill. Inft.

- * Darling, B. F., 9th Iowa Cav.
- Darling, Edwin, 9th Iowa Inft.
- Day, Edwin, 79th Ohio Inft.
- * Deal, Edward, 134th N. Y. Inft.
- * Dean, Horace F., 26th Iowa Inft.
- Dettmer, Henry, 10th Ill. Inft.
- Douglass, W. R. —
- Doty, Thos., 9th Iowa Inft.
- Drake, Theodore, 3rd Wisc. Inft.
- Drumm, I., 12th Inft.
- Dubois, F., 12th Inft.
- Duncan, J. P., 135th Ill. Inft.
- * Duncan, Charles, 3rd U. S. Cav.
- Dury, James —
- Eaton, S. R., Sergeant
- Edwards, Wm., 3rd Iowa Cav.
- Edwards, John, 9th Mich. Inft.
- Enright, George, 26th Iowa Inft.
- * Eyer, Samuel, 45th Penn. Inft.
- Fackar, J. W., 22nd Iowa Inft.
- Facklar, Henry H., 7th Iowa Cav.
- * Familton, W. R., 44th Iowa Inft.
- Farley, Onlon, 20th Iowa Inft.
- Faust, Joseph, 66th Ohio Inft.
- Featherston, W. H., 14th Ill. Cav.
- Fienhold, F. W., 104th Ill. Inft.
- Fish, Isaac J., Mexican war.
- Fitzgerald, Morris, 23rd Ill. Inft.
- Ford, Henry C. —
- Francis, James, 18th Ind. Inft.
- * Francis, Joseph, Ind. Inft. and Mexican war.
- Franks, Henry —
- * French, Aaron F., 3rd Vermont Batt. Died Dec. 8, 1901.
- * French, Ralph, 92nd Ill. Inft. Died Oct. 8, 1892.
- Gable, Uriah —
- Garlough, B. W. —
- Garten, G. W., 59th Ind. Inft.
- Getty, Robt., 92nd Ill. Inft.
- Gill, Dr. D. H., 2nd Iowa Cav.
- * Gilmor, Isaac, 1st Lieut. 2nd Iowa Cav. Died Apr. 8, 1909.
- Gibson, Francis, 1st Minn. Inft.
- * Gilbreath, J. S., 6th U. S. Cav.
- Goodrich, Ward —
- Goodrich, Wm., 11th Iowa Cav.
- Golden, David —
- Gould, John, 132nd Ill. Inft.
- * Graham, S. M., 18th U. S. Inft. Died Feb. 20, 1899.

- Gregg, Robt. 188th Penn. Inft.
* Grosshart, Henry —
Grimes, Lumas H., 42nd Ill. Inft.
Grimes, W. R., 42nd Ill. Inft.
* Gulick, H. S., 26th Iowa Inft. Died May 12, 1896.
Harker, T. W., 31st Wisc. Inft.
Hardy, Albion P., 7th Maine Inft.
Hardy, L. E., 1st Maine Inft.
* Hart, James P., 4th U. S. Inft. and Mexican war.
Hauckett, Henry M., 21st Iowa Inft.
* Havens, J. D., 33rd Wisc. Inft.
Hefflefinger, R., 13th Ill. Inft.
Hershberger, John, 2nd Cav.
Herner, Elias, 7th Ill. Cav.
Hester, George, 156th Ill. Inft.
* Heston, G. W., 71st Penn. Inft. Died April 17, 1902.
* Hitchcock, Chauncey, 7th Wisc. Vol.
Hitchcock, Charles, 31st Wisc. Inft.
Hoffman, P. B., 44th Iowa Inft.
Hoffman, T. J., 44th Iowa Inft.
Hoffman, John, 14th Iowa Inft.
Holmes, W. W., 15th O. V. M.
Holmes, G. W., 26th Iowa Inft.
* Hover, W. W., 96th Ill. Inft. Died Feb. 3, 1909.
Huie, John, 4th Ill. Cav.
Hunt, James, 18th N. H. Inft.
Huntington, G. W., 15th Ill. Inft.
Jackson, Alfred, 15th Iowa Inft.
* Jackson, W. W., 134th N. Y. Inft. Died Feb. 12, 1908.
James, John, 31st Miss. Inft.
Jefferson, Thomas —
Jobe, Henry, 95th Ill. Inft.
* Johnson, Abram, 78th Ohio Inft.
Johnson, Joseph, 13th Iowa Inft.
Jones, S. L., 12th Penn. Inft.
* Jones, Lyman M., 19th Ill. Inft.
* Kellar, David, 15th Penn. Cav.
Kelly, Pat, 10th N. Y. Inft.
Kennedy, E. R., 6th Iowa Cav.
* Kenyon, W. A., 1st Minn. Inft. Died March 13, 1872.
* Kepford, Jacob, Iowa Inft.
Kuykendall, J. C., Iowa Inft.
Keyes, C. H., 33rd Ill. Inft.
King, J. B., 27th Iowa Inft.
Kingdon, W. H., 1st Minn. Inft.
Klinkefus, Reinhart, 65th Ill.
* Knowles, Martin —

- Landon, George, 23rd N. Y. Inft.
Lansar, Nathan I., 9th Iowa Cav.
Laughery, Romalus, 151st Ill. Inft.
Laughery, Joseph, 65th Ill. Inft.
Laughery, Sam, 8th Iowa Cav.
Law, Francis M. —
*Lawton, W. H., 81st N. Y. Inft.
Lawton, Chas A., 1st N. Y. Heavy Art.
*Lawson, George C., 31st Wisc. Inft.
Leese, Jacob, 6th Ohio Inft.
*Lentz, Enos, 22nd Iowa Inft.
Levan, Frank, 31st Iowa Inft.
Lewis, M. B., Ohio Inft.
Lewis, Edwin, 3rd Wisc. Inft.
*Lewis, J. H., W. V. Art. C, Battery B, 4th Reg. Art. Died March 17, 1907.
Leycraft, Fred, 124th Ill. Inft..
Linderwood, Aaron, 22nd Iowa Inft.
*Linge, John, Mexican war.
Lindley, George E., 103rd Ohio Inft.
Loechner, John, 21st Penn. Inft.
Lorens, Christian, 13th Ill. Inft.
*Lorentzen, H. J., Captain 9th Wisc. Inft.
Lownes, R. W., 4th Ill. Cav.
Lucas, E. R., 26th Iowa Inft.
Ludlum, Alex —
Lung, Wm. H., 46th Ill. Vol.
*McArthur, J. E., 26th Iowa Inft.
McCarthy, P. A., 106th N. Y. Inft.
McClellan, John L., 21st Penn. Cav.
*McConnel, W. H., 230th Inft. Died Oct. 23, 1883.
McCracken, Ed., 46th Iowa Inft.
McElwain, Myron, 7th Wisc. Inft.
McHenry, W. A., 8th Ill. Cav.
*McIntosh, Hugh, Iowa Inft.
McKenzie, Sylvester, 8th Inft.
McMeans, R. J., 2nd Iowa Cav.
McMinimee, J. S., 160th Inft.
McNeal, Nath., 31st Ohio Inft.
*Macomber, George, Mexican war.
*Mahoney, Patrick, 16th N. Y. Heavy Art.
Malone, Thomas, 52nd Ohio Inft.
*Marshall, Wm., 8th Ill. Cav.
*Mather, F., 54th Ind. Inft.
Mathews, A., 44th Iowa Inft.
*Mathews, Carey, 30th Wisc. Inft. Died Dec. 20, 1871.
*Matlock, W. H., U. S. Navy. Died Dec. 31, 1910.

- * Maynard, J. W., 12th Ill. Vol.
- Meyer, Ferdinand, 13th Ill. Inft.
- * Messenbrink, Fred, 105th Ill. Inft.
- Messenbrink, J. H., 2nd Minn. Inft.
- Messenbrink, Louie, 105th Ill. Inft.
- Menchin, Henry, 1st Ill. Art.
- Melton, J. S., 14th Missouri Cav.
- * Miles, E., 4th Missouri Inft.
- Mitchell, J. H., 17th Ill. Inft.
- Miller, A. H., 55th Ohio Inft.
- Molony, M., 147th Ill. Inft.
- Montgomery, R. R., 7th Iowa Inft.
- Morris, H. C., 112th Ill. Inft.
- * Mooney, L. P., 8th Ohio Inft. Died April 28, 1911.
- Morray, P. E., Penn. Inft.
- Moore, W. B., U. S. Inft.
- Moore, M. M. —
- * Munson, J. H., 1st Iowa Cav.
- Murphy, John, 17th Wisc. Inft.
- Murray, —, 1st U. S. Art.
- Murdock, W. H. —
- Nash, C. D., 8th Ill. Cav.
- * Nash, Danford, 20th Ind. Art.
- Nash, H. C., 153rd Ill. Inft.
- Nash, S. D., 105th Ill. Inft.
- Naumann, A. A., 31st Iowa Inft.
- * Newcom, Tilton, Mexican war.
- Nichols, H. J., 2nd Vt. Inft.
- * Noll, Levi, 64th Ohio Inft.
- Norelius, A., 3rd Iowa Inft.
- O'Gorman, John, U. S. Navy.
- * Olson, E., 132nd Ill. Inft. Died Nov. 15, 1894.
- Osborn, John, 55th Ill. Inft.
- Overing, R. J., 9th Vermont Inft.
- Owens, Edwin, 18th Wisc. Inft.
- * Owens, J., 34th N. Y. Inft.
- Palmer, Herbert B. —
- * Partridge, E. D., 11th Wisc. Inft., also Mexican war and Blackhawk war. Died March 21, 1896.
- Patchin, Lorenzo, 127th Ill. Inft.
- Patterson, Isaac, 20th Iowa Inft.
- Patterson, J. C., 31st Iowa Inft.
- Patterson, Griffith, 12th Ill. Inft.
- Paup, Wm., 31st Iowa Inft.
- * Pease, Henry, 14th Vermont Inft. Died June, 1892.
- Pembroke, John W., Cogswell's Lt. Art.
- * Phelps, A. T., Capt. 5th Iowa Cav. Died Sept. 26, 1885.

Pilate, Thomas, 2nd Ill. Inft.
* Pithan, John, 26th Iowa Inft.
Plugh, Henry, 6th Iowa Cav.
Plimpton, S. W., 11th R. I. Inft.
* Pooler, George, Ill. Inft.
Porter, W. A., 2nd & 23rd Iowa Inft.
Powers, J. F., 10th Penn. Inft.
Prentice, Chaney —
* Prentice, Franklin, 1st Iowa Cav.
Prentice, Jacob —
Quigley, John A., 26th Iowa Inft.
Reed, John M. —
Reley, M. H., 6th Kansas Inft.
* Reynolds, John, Ind. Inft.
Richardson, J. L., 20th Iowa Inft.
* Richards, Newton, 34th Iowa Vol.
Rice, S. S., 24th Iowa Inft.
Richman, J. W., 4th Iowa Cav.
* Rhodes, O. B., 15th N. H. Inft. Died Dec. 1, 1897.
Rhodenbaugh, Wm. W., 18th Ill. Inft.
Robertson, Dan'l, 47th Iowa Inft.
Robins, H., 32nd Ohio Inft.
Robbenault, A., 111th Penn. Inft.
Robbenault, Jeremiah, 199th Penn. Inft.
Robbins, H., 32nd Ohio Inft.
Rudd, John R., 15th Inft.
* Scaggs, W. H., 3rd Col. Cav. Died May 30, 1907.
Schultz, Gotlieb, 9th Wisc. Inft.
* Scofield, Percy, N. Y. Inft.
Scoford, George, Eng. Corps.
Scott, A. M. —
* Seeber, Wm. H., 10th N. Y. Art.
Servoss, John, 54th Ohio Inft.
* Sewell, L. A., Ill. Lt. Art. Died March 4, 1905.
Shanahan, Tim, 42nd Iowa Inft.
Sherwood, Sidney, 18th Iowa Inft.
Shopshire, T. J., 3rd Col. Cav.
Sharp, T. M., Iowa Inft.
Simmons, A., 6th Minn. Inft.
Sisterman, Henry —
Simpson, B. M., 43rd Ohio Inft.
Siglin, Isaiah, 17th Ill. Cav.
Sierer, Edward 1st Missouri Cav., 4th U. S. Vet. Vol. Inft. Sergt. of the
guard at execution of Mrs. Surrat.
Skinner, Joseph —
Slagg, Joseph, 23rd Wisc. Inft.
Slater, John C. H., 20th Wisc. Inft.

- Small, Christian, 2nd Iowa Inft.
Smedly, J., 33rd Iowa Inft.
Smith, M., 105th Ill. Inft. Died Jan. 24, 1905.
* Smith, R. M., 2nd Iowa Cav.
* Smith, E. H., 26th Iowa Inft. Died June, 1911.
Smith, M. N., 30th Wisc. Inft.
Snow, M. H., 16th Iowa Inft.
Sowles, Velie, 2nd Ill. Art.
Spence, Wm., 15th Iowa Inft.
Strahan, W. H., 3rd Col. Cav.
* Staller, Sam'l, 16th Penn. Cav.
Stamper, Wm., 1st Iowa Battery
Streeter, S., 3rd and 7th Wisc. Inft.
* Stocking, C. P., 95th Ill. Inft. Died Oct, 22. 1896.
Strong, A. L., 37th Mass. Inft.
Strong, Simeon —
* Swan, T. J., 88th Ill. Inft.
* Talcott, Ed, 75th Ill. Inft.
* Talcott, Divaldo, 75th Ill. Inft. Died Sept. 1, 1908.
Taylor, A. S., 24th Iowa Inft.
* Taylor, Rufus —
* Taylor, George E., 7th N. Y. Inft.
* Tiernan, James L., 26th Iowa Inft. Died Nov. 15, 1894.
Theobald, John, 50th Wisc. Inft.
Thomas, J., 3rd Col. Cav.
Thompson, Frank, 16th Inft.
* Thompson, Calvin, Iowa Inft.
Thornbrue, A., 9th Iowa Inft.
Town, Salem H., 75th Ill. Inft.
* Trinkle, Alexander, 23rd Ind. Inft.
Underhill, N. P., 114th Ohio Inft.
Vassar, John G., 23rd Ill. Inft.
Vertrees, J. W., 15th Ill. Inft.
Walker, Theodore, 1st N. Y. H. A.
Warbasse, J. L., 1st N. J. Inft.
Wasson, H. K., 8th Iowa Cav.
Watson, George, 5th and 58th Penn. Inft.
* Waterman, Dr. Alfred —
Weatherby, J. S., Ind. Inft.
Westcott, H. H., 43rd N. Y. Inft.
* Whaley, Chas B., Ohio Inft.
Whitcher, Selden, E., 44th U. S. Inft.
White, Thomas, 2nd N. Y. Lt. Art.
White, Benjamin, Ill. Inft.
Wiggins, M. G., 11th Iowa Inft.
* Wiggins, B. H., 5th Iowa Inft.
* Wiggins, Delmo, 5th Iowa Inft.

- Wilson, 'A. D., 141st Ill. Inft.
Wilson, Wm. S., 124th Ill. Inft.
* Wilkenson, R. L., 94th Ill. Inft. Died Jan. 2, 1882.
Wildman, Joseph, 105th Ill. Inft.
* Wingrove, Wm., 15th Iowa Inft.
Wise, J. U., 44th Iowa Inft.
* Woolsencroft, John, 104th Ill. Inft.
Worley, Jacob, 39th Iowa Inft.
Wood, Wm. O., 52nd Ill. Inft.
* Woodruff, J. H., 4th Iowa Inft. Died Dec. 16, 1904.
Wright, G. L., Lieut. Col. 3rd Iowa Inft.
Wright, L. R., 5th Iowa Inft.
* Wright, M. D., 1st N. Y. Inft. Died July 21, 1909.
Yelkey, Chas., 127th Penn. Inft.
* Zell, Andy, 20th Penn. Cav.

CHAPTER XXVI.

PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATIONS.

For some years after the war so large a percentage of our people had been soldiers of the Union army that it was such an every day occurrence for old veterans to unite that but little thought was given to an organization to preserve the memories and friendships of war. Later, however, the value of these organizations became apparent and on September 26, 1881, the old soldiers of Denison banded themselves together as a part of that great national organization known as the Grand Army of the Republic. The local post was known as Root Post, No. 58, Department of Iowa. The charter members were G. W. Heston, E. D. Partridge, A. J. Bond, H. S. Gulick, J. S. Gilbreath, M. H. Snow, S. W. Plimpton, A. T. Phelps, R. W. Lownes, Andrew Simmons, W. A. Porter, John G. Vassar, R. L. Wilkinson, Charles Hitchcock, George L. Wright, Melvin Smith, Edward Miles, C. A. Lawton, and B. W. Garlough. The post was mustered in by B. W. Whitcher, of Manning, Iowa. G. W. Heston was elected commander of the post, and A. T. Phelps adjutant. The name chosen was in honor of Lieutenant-Colonel Root, of the Fifteenth New York Cavalry, who was killed the night before the surrender of Lee's forces. The post grew and prospered and at one time contained a large membership, although at present the ranks have been thinned by death. Mr. W. A. McHenry, although his name does not appear as a charter member, always took a great interest in the welfare of the post, donating the use of the McHenry Hall for its meetings. In the year 1886 Mr. McHenry was elected department commander for Iowa and under him G. L. Wright acted as department adjutant. It was during his administration that the death of the great Union general, John A. Logan, occurred. Under the rules of the order posts must be named in honor of some deceased soldier or sailor. As soon as the death of General Logan was announced there was a great rush on the part of many posts to honor his memory by naming their local organization after him. Having the department officers here, the Denison post was able to act quickly and secured the coveted name, changing it from Root Post to John A. Logan post. The post has had a total membership of one hundred and forty-four. Of these thirty-two have died, forty-four have been transferred and there are now thirty-one members in good standing. The post has had charge of the memorial services

conducted each year on the 30th of May and has also done much good work, not only in caring for less fortunate members, but in preserving the spirit of patriotism throughout the community. The present officers are, J. L. McClellan, Commander; George Watson, Sr. Vice Commander; Ed Sierer, Jr. Vice Commander; A. J. Bond, Officer of the Day; J. P. Duncan, Officer of the Guard; John G. Vassar, Surgeon; T. J. Shopshire, Chaplain; A. D. Wilson, Quartermaster; John L. Richardson, Adjutant; also Patriotic Instructor.

A Grand Army Post was organized in Manilla in 1887 and named in honor of A. T. Phelps, long a resident of Denison. The post organized with eighteen members and held regular meetings for a number of years, but the ranks were depleted by death and by removals, so that the charter was surrendered in 1897, since which time there has not been a sufficient membership to reorganize.

Following the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic came the establishment of that other most helpful order, the Woman's Relief Corps. The Denison branch of this society, known as John A. Logan Woman's Relief Corps, No. 56, was organized March 12, 1886, under the name of Root Corps, auxiliary to Root Post, the name being changed soon after the death of General Logan. The charter members of the corps were as follows: Mary L. S. McHenry, Jenette O. Wright, Mariette Gulick, Selina J. Plimpton, Geppie Bond, Emma W. Avery, Melvina C. Byam, Candace Miller, Mary Richardson, Annie Thornbrue, Mary Sayre, Miss Mahala Snellbaker, Miss Mollie Springer, Georgia W. McClellan, Hannah R. Plimpton, Laura R. Baer, Jennie M. Drake, Mattie M. Shaw Van, Emmaline Rhodes, Mary Jane Gilbreath, Ella D. Sewell, Eva McHenry, Eda L. Wood and Frankie Blackman.

The following officers of the corps were installed by Colonel G. L. Wright, then Post Commander: President, Mary L. S. McHenry; Sr. Vice President, Jenette O. Wright; Jr. Vice President, Mariette Gulick; Chaplain, Emma W. Avery; Treasurer, Geppie Bond; Conductor, Georgia W. McClellan; Assistant Conductor, Laura R. Baer; Guard, Mary Richardson; Assistant Guard, Mattie M. Shaw Van.

The corps has made a steady growth, the membership at this date being seventy-six. Denison has been greatly honored by the state and national organization of the Relief Corps. In June, 1887, Mrs. Sears McHenry was elected department president and Mrs. Georgie Wade McClellan department treasurer. Mrs. McHenry appointed Mrs. Hannah R. Plimpton as department secretary. In June, 1889, Mrs. Lottie D. Ley was elected department president and Mrs. Mary S. McHenry department treasurer. Mrs. Ley appointed Mrs. Hannah R. Plimpton as department secretary for a second term. In June 1897, Mrs. Georgia Wade McClellan, who for many years has been one of the most prominent workers in the national organization and who is known by the ladies of the order from one ocean to the other, was elected department president, being reelected in June, 1898, an exceptional honor. She appointed Mrs. Agnes Muir as her secretary. In 1900 Mrs. Christine Snider Romans, then a member of Creston Corps, No. 141, but now a member of this corps, was elected department presi-

dent. She appointed Mrs. Georgia Wade McClellan as her secretary. In 1890 Mrs. Mary Sears McHenry received the very exceptional honor of election as national president, appointing Mrs. Hannah R. Plimpton as her secretary. In 1908 Mrs. Georgia Wade McClellan served as national press correspondent during the national presidency of Kate E. Jones. In 1909 Mrs. McClellan also served as national secretary under the administration of Mrs. Jennie Iowa Berry. No other local organization of the relief corps or of any other patriotic order has ever received so many honors from the state and nation as has the Relief Corps of Denison.

The Relief Corps has done much good in Denison—has faithfully aided in the decoration of the graves of the old soldiers and of their own deceased members, and has done much for the welfare of the old soldiers and their families. The local corps has lost by death the following members: Miss Lina May Bond, 1887; Mrs. Mary Ransom, 1896; Mrs. Emma Simmons, 1899; Mrs. Mettie Laub Romans, 1900; Mrs. Emma K. Meyers, 1901; Mrs. Olive Aylesworth, 1906; Mrs. Katie Davis Rollins, 1910; and Mrs. Lottie Green, 1911.

A Relief Corps was also instituted at Manilla as auxiliary to the A. T. Phelps Post. This corps was organized August 23, 1889, the charter members being Mrs. Phoebe Crakes, Mrs. Mary M. Sachra, Mrs. Sophia E. Slagg, Mrs. Laurretta Smith, Mrs. Lulu Graham, Mrs. Emma C. Barber, Mrs. Mary Moore, Mrs. Asenthe West, Mrs. Harriet Slater, Mrs. Almira E. Trowbridge, and Miss Dottie J. Anderson. This corps had a useful existence, but following the disbanding of the Post it also gave up its charter. Those who were members at that time and who received honorable discharge were: Mesdames Sachra, Slater, Cook, Saunders, Porter, Pease, Bertha A. Saunders, Clark, Gillett, Lefferts and Gardner and Misses Nell D. Anderson and Victoria E. Saunders.

Another patriotic order which was an outgrowth of the Grand Army of the Republic was the Sons of Veterans. The local organization is known as the W. A. McHenry Camp, in honor of the man who has ever been its most loyal supporter. The camp was mustered in October 24, 1885, by E. G. Warden, Mr. W. A. McHenry presenting to the new camp a handsome flag and a substantial check. The first officers were, Commander, Sears McHenry; Sr. Vice Commander, Fred Hefflefinger; Jr. Vice Commander, Grant Gilbreath; Chaplain, Gaylord Thornbrue; Treasurer, Frank Wright; Secretary, R. E. Williams; Color Sergeant, A. C. Weeks; S. of G., R. Shaw Van; C. of G., H. J. Cook; Camp Guard, T. S. Beatty; Picket Guard, Lewis Vassar. The other charter members were Eugene Gulick, L. K. McClellan, J. B. McClellan, H. G. Peters, Ed Gilbreath, Mark Cavett, N. P. Cavett, Charles Angel, Byron Leycraft, A. E. Trask, William Gilbreath, L. E. Blakesley, and H. S. Cavett. Mr. Gaylord Thornbrue is the only member whom the camp has lost by death.

The present officers are J. B. Lyon, Commander; L. D. Vassar, Sr. Vice Commander; F. C. Marshall, Jr. Vice Commander; N. L. Hunt, Quartermaster; A. C. Weeks, Secretary; and R. Shaw Van, Chaplain. The camp now numbers twenty-three members and its financial standing is good. It takes charge of the funerals of deceased old soldiers, furnishes the firing

squad on Memorial Day and assists wherever it may, both in caring for old soldiers and in perpetuating the memories of the war. Among its munificences should be mentioned a donation of one hundred dollars toward the support of Memorial University at Mason City.

CHAPTER XXVII.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

Governor Leslie M. Shaw, of Denison, was the second war governor of Iowa. The events which led up to this contest of arms were many and thrilling. In the name of humanity the people of this country felt that intervention in behalf of Cuba could not be delayed, but few, if any, thought that it would lead us so far afield as the Islands of the Philippines, and that as a result, large, and in some respects, not wholly desirable domains, would be added to the United States.

The declaration of war in 1898 found the militia of the various states eager and anxious to offer their services. The four regiments of the Iowa National Guard were, by order of Governor Shaw, encamped at Des Moines. It was soon found, however, that these regiments were not recruited to a full war strength and volunteers were called for. The call met a ready response from Crawford County and more than a score of our young men went to Des Moines for enlistment. It chanced that they threw their lot with the old Third Regiment, now known as the Fifty-first Iowa. The majority of the men from Crawford county, naturally desirous of keeping together, enlisted in Company C, which company had its home at Glenwood. Those enlisting in Company C were A. D. James, William Larin, Ward C. Cramer, John H. Cushing, Claud C. Brogan, Johannis Wulf, James Armstrong, Ernest Dixon, Edward Retman, Fredrick Thordson, Benjamin Bahnson, Mac Ellsworth and Solomon Laughery. Reuben Johnsen of Deloit enlisted in Company E and H. R. Kruger and B. H. Foderberg enlisted in Company K. It is a somewhat remarkable fact that out of these sixteen men who were accepted and enrolled as volunteers, coming as they did from a county which had no military organization, thus leaving them without prior experience, six became non-commissioned officers on account of merit. These were A. D. James, Quartermaster Sergeant; and William Larin, W. C. Cramer, John H. Cushing, H. R. Kruger and B. H. Foderberg, corporals. The enlistment was made in April, 1898, Colonel John C. Loper commanding the regiment. The boys had several weeks encampment at Des Moines. They saw the Fiftieth and Fifty-second Regiments called to the south, supposedly for duty in Cuba, but in fact these regiments did not go beyond Tampa. The boys of the Fifty-first were naturally consumed with jealousy and were highly impatient that they were not called upon for service. The great victory of Admiral

Dewey at Manila Bay, on May 1st, opened an entirely new field of operation and on June 2d the regiment was ordered to report at San Francisco. They encamped first at Camp Merritt and then at the Presidio, and on November 3d the regiment embarked, midst a great ovation, on the transport *Pennsylvania*, which was their home for upwards of three months. They entered Manila Bay December 7, after a journey of six thousand, nine hundred and ninety miles. The regiment was not disembarked, however, and on December 26th it was ordered to Iloilo. Again they were not allowed to leave the ship and on January 26th they were ordered to return to Manila, reaching that port the last day of January. It was not until February 5 that the last troops left the ship.

Company C containing the majority of the Crawford County boys, being one of the last to disembark. On February 9th the regiment took part in attempting to save San Roque from the flames and established a strong position at Fort Rice. Here the major part of them remained for some weeks. In March Company K went with General Wheaton's flying brigade and the company made a charge on the outlying works of Malibay and kept them under a heavy but ineffective fire. From this time on there was a great deal of sickness in the regiment. Smallpox broke out and several members of the regiment died. The regiment took part in the movement on San Fernando, seeing much hard service and severe fighting. On May 4th the regiment took part in the attack on San Fernando, charging with great gallantry through the Candaba swamp, driving the enemy in full retreat through Santo Tomas. It was in this engagement that Corporal John D. Cushing received a severe wound in the head. For several months the regiment was quartered at San Fernando, busy with outpost work and occasional fighting. Malaria and severe enteric disorders were widely prevalent. On June 16th there was a determined attack on the American forces at San Fernando and the Fifty-first Regiment took a large part in the successful defense. There were frequent night attacks, all of which were gallantly repulsed. The regiment remained on duty at San Fernando until September 6, 1899, when it was relieved by the Fourth Cavalry. In August, 1899, it is reported that of the ten companies there were 203 on the firing line, while 451, or 53 per cent of the regiment, were sick. The thinned ranks of the regiment marched into Manila September 6th. On September 26th it sailed on the transport *Senator* for San Francisco, via Nagasaki and Yokohama. The regiment was mustered out at the Presidio in November, 1899, and the boys were welcomed home by an enormous reception at Council Bluffs, which was attended by from twenty-five thousand to thirty thousand people. On the evening of November 6th the boys returned to Denison. The depot platform could not accommodate the people who had assembled, although the hour was late, to grasp the returning soldiers' hands. A procession was formed which, headed by the Manilla and Denison bands, marched to the opera house where a tremendous crowd awaited them. After quiet had been restored Mr. H. A. Cook, chairman of the executive committee, gave a little talk and presented each of the boys with a medal of beautiful design, intended to commemorate their services for their country. After the presentation each returning sol-

dier was forced to make a little speech, and they were cheered again and again. Addresses were made by Governor Leslie M. Shaw and Hon. P. E. C. Lally, after which the many friends crowded about to congratulate them upon their safe return. After the reception a banquet was tendered the returning soldiers at the Wilson House.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

BANKS AND BANKING.

The first constitution of Iowa prohibited banks. The first Governor of Iowa was elected on a platform of which "no banks" was the chief plank. The early experiences had been disastrous. There had been wildcat banks and total failures and usury and the settlers were afraid of anything that bore the name of a bank. There was little necessity for banks. There were no savings. The pioneers had only enough for the necessities of life. The medium of exchange was very largely the products of the farm. Mr. Laub bought his first land in exchange for wheat. Mr. Bond sold his hogs in Council Bluffs, receiving \$1.00 per hundred in cash and the balance in trade. The settlers did not borrow money, they borrowed flour or meat or potatoes, and paid in kind or in labor. Nevertheless, it is a fact, that the oldest National bank in the United States is located at Davenport.

As the country grew older and more prosperous, a surplus was created. This led people to desire some place of safety and what better place could be found in Crawford county than the safe of the well known and eminently trustworthy county treasurer, Morris McHenry. Mr. Wicks tells us that the first county vault was a tin box hidden under the puncheon floor of his home. But later the brick court house was erected and the county offices found permanent residence. It was, therefore, to the county treasurer that the pioneer came with their meager store of gold. Prosperity also brought the desire to purchase articles not produced by themselves, and this led the settlers to require some convenient means of exchange. Mr. McHenry had established a line of credit with the Allen bank at Des Moines, and the banking of Crawford county thus started with the moneys which Mr. McHenry took for safe keeping and the drafts which he drew on Des Moines. The demand for these accommodations continued to grow and Mr. McHenry arranged that, should his brother Wm. A. McHenry return in safety from the battle fields of the Civil war, they would form a partnership in the banking and land business. Upon the return of his younger brother from the war, he was appointed deputy treasurer and also engaged in the mercantile business with Mr. E. S. Plimpton, erecting the brick building on Main street now occupied by the Huettman Clothing store. It was in the front room the second story of this building that the pioneer bank of Crawford county was opened for business. Morris McHenry and brother were the owners. The date was November 23, 1869, and the cash on hand and in

banks was a trifle over \$3,000. We have seen the old ledger containing the account of those first days of business. R. Heffelfinger was the first depositor, a loan of \$12.00 was made, having for its time of payment, "when the pay car comes in," a loan of \$1.00 was made to Barney Robinault "for a few days." The transactions for the first day totaled \$3,500.00. For a few years the bank went under the name of the Denison Savings Bank, although this name was not indicative of the character of the business. This title was dropped and the institution became "McHenry Brothers' Bank and Land Office." The real estate department did by far the larger business. Through this firm was sold more than 200,000 acres of Crawford county land and when Mr. Denison failed in health they became the agents for the Providence Western Land Co.

The bank building still occupied by this institution was erected in 1873, and it was among the first buildings that gave to Denison an air of permanency and acknowledged supremacy. In 1877, W. A. McHenry purchased the interest of his brother Morris and continued the business under the name of the W. A. McHenry bank. This institution continued until August 1, 1892, when the bank was nationalized under the name of the First National Bank of Denison. The bank is and has been continuously a family affair. Mr. W. A. McHenry, having been succeeded in the active management of the bank by his sons Sears and George McHenry, and his son-in-law, Louie Seemann. Mr. McHenry early established himself in the confidence of the community. He was a careful, although a money making, man, and never in the course of his business history has any speculative gains tempted him to place a mortgage upon any of his holdings. His real estate transactions have been large and at one time he owned 25 farms in Crawford county. Ten years ago he purchased 40,000 acres in Minnesota, all of which were sold at a handsome profit. Five years later he purchased 25,000 acres in Canada, 17,000 of which he owns at this time, and, although it also could be sold at a profit, he continues to hold this as he has great faith in the future of that country. Another outlet for Mr. McHenry's business energy was found in the breeding of Aberdeen Angus cattle, and his farm just southwest of Denison has for years been noted as the home of the Champion herd of this breed in the United States.

When the First National Bank was established in 1892, it had a capital of \$100,000, and its total deposits were \$181,000. Since that time dividends have been paid annually, the surplus amounts to \$25,000, and the latest published statement showed assets of \$980,000. The deposits being more than three quarters of a million. The bank has been tested by hard times and by panics, but it has ever remained a veritable Gibraltar of finance and its stability has in many ways been a blessing to the community. Much of the later day success of the bank is due to the efforts of Mr. Sears McHenry who has been the cashier since 1885, and who has succeeded to the abilities, as well as to the responsibilities of his father.

As Denison grew apace there came a demand for additional banking facilities and Mr. R. Heffelfinger, who was at that time one of the most prominent merchants of the city, established a second bank in 1876. Mr. Heffelfinger was engaged in many different pursuits. He was a kindly hearted, indulgent man and in the course of time he found his assets tied up in business ventures and



Chicago & Northwestern Depot



Illinois Central Depot



Sweet Street



West Broadway, 1910



Main Street, looking south

VIEWS OF DENISON

in loans which, though good, were not promptly to be converted into cash. All the old timers remember well the day when the Hefflefinger bank closed its doors. The business interests rallied to the support of the institution and it was soon found that its affairs were in a solvent condition and that no depositor would suffer loss. It was at this time, 1884, that the bank was reorganized and became known as the Crawford County Bank. Many of the most prominent business men of the city were concerned in this reorganization. The capital stock was \$50,000, and the first stock holders were H. F. Schwartz, L. Cornwell, J. P. Miller, J. P. Conner, John Kridler, M. Z. Landon, W. H. Kridler, L. M. Shaw, and C. H. DeWolf. Mr. W. H. Kridler was the cashier and virtual head of the institution for some time, selling his interest in 1888. The new owners installed M. E. Jones as cashier, a position which he has filled since that time. H. Heicksen was assistant cashier until his death in 1893, when he was succeeded by C. J. Kemming. The first officers were L. Cornwell, president and J. P. Miller, vice president. From 1889 to 1894 this order was reversed, Mr. Miller being president and Mr. Cornwell vice president. Mr. Miller sold his interest and Mr. Cornwell became president with A. C. Balle as vice president. In 1897 Mr. George Naeve became vice president and manager. There have been many changes in stock ownership and among those now owning stock are Chas. Tabor, T. J. Garrison, M. E. Jones, C. J. Kemming, H. F. Schwartz, L. Cornwell, J. P. Conner, and George Naeve.

From its very incipieny this bank has had a most successful career. When the statutes were changed providing for state banks advantage was taken of the new law and it became the Crawford County State Bank. Later the capital was increased to \$100,000. The charter was renewed in 1904. The bank at a recent statement showed assets of \$933,269.65, approaching very closely to the million dollar line. The bank does a large business, is noted for its stability, and the wealth and reputation of its stockholders and officers are sufficient guarantees of the future. In 1910 the bank purchased the loan business of Mr. Chas. Tabor, and it also conducts a large abstract department in charge of Mr. Robert Helsley.

Denison's third bank grew up in much the same manner as did the First National Bank. In the earlier days Conner and Shaw in their law offices had the largest and best safe in the village outside of the banks. After banking hours it became a matter of convenience for many to make deposits with them. They also commenced to sell exchange and practically enjoyed the functions of a bank long before a bank was organized. Upon the election of Hon. J. P. Conner, as district judge, the partnership of Conner and Shaw was dissolved and Mr. C. F. Kuehnle entered the firm. He gave particular attention to the financial part of the institution and to the upbuilding of the large loan business which had already been established. It was not until 1890 that the bank, per se, was incorporated. The original capital stock was \$35,000. The first officers were Leslie M. Shaw, president; Carl F. Kuehnle, vice-president; W. R. Barber, cashier; C. L. Voss, assistant cashier. The ownership of the Bank of Denison has remained continuously with Mr. Shaw and Mr. Kuehnle. The responsibility is in excess of \$500,000 and the deposits exceed \$650,000. The present officers are Leslie M. Shaw, president; Carl F. Kuehnle, vice-president;

C. L. Voss, cashier; A. B. Lorenzen, assistant cashier; P. D. McMahon, manager farm loans, Jacob Sims, attorney; and J. W. Miller, Jr., abstractor. The bank has a large line of deposits, is loan agent for the Prudential Insurance Company, as well as for a large number of eastern institutions. Its volume of business is great and it has been a very considerable factor in the upbuilding of the county. In fact the three banks of Denison are of nearly equal rank and have made Denison the financial center, not only of Crawford but of the counties adjoining. The banking interests of Denison give active employment and require the entire attention of at least twenty-five officers and employees, and next to the business of retail merchandising represent the largest industry of Denison, while in point of the magnitude of their transactions they are easily first, not only in Denison, but in this section of the state. These three banks have total deposits in excess of two million dollars.

Strange as it may seem we have not been able to obtain reports from all the banks in Crawford county. We give those which we have and any omissions must be charged to the officers of the banks concerned. Aside from the independent banks there are three banking systems in the county emanating from Denison. The Traders Bank of Vail and the Bank of Dow City are owned and controlled by the stockholders of the First National Bank of Denison. The National Bank of Manilla is owned and controlled by the Bank of Denison. The Farmers State Bank of Charter Oak and the German Bank of Schleswig is owned and controlled by the stockholders of the Crawford County State Bank, while the First National Bank of Charter Oak and the German Savings Bank of Ricketts are closely affiliated. The Baxter Reed Company bank is in like manner affiliated with the bank of the same name at Ida Grove. The other banks of the county are on independent basis, that is; they are largely owned by local capitalists. There is no exact statement of the amount of deposits in all the banks but from the information at hand it is safe to estimate that the banks of the county hold as deposits not less than four million dollars, approximately two million of which is on deposit in the banks of Denison. This is a great showing. It is a far cry from the days when the county treasure was hidden under a board and the chief financial transactions were the barterings of flour and corn meal for work and wood. We take up the banks in the order in which they were reported by their officials.

The Kiron State Bank was organized as the Boyer Valley Bank October 1, 1899 by the stockholders of the First National Bank of Odebolt. The original capital stock was \$7,500.00.

The concern erected a one story brick building in November, 1899 and opened for business January 2, 1900, with Henry Hansen, president; T. B. Stratford, vice-president; W. J. Sandberg, cashier. This business was conducted successfully for five years and in June, 1904, the Kiron State Bank was organized by W. W. Field, Jos. Mattes, John R. Mattes, John Dinges, W. J. Sandberg, J. A. Reynolds, Henry Hansen, W. F. Bay, Aug. Lundell, and W. A. Helsell with a capital stock of \$25,000. The first directors were Henry Hansen, Aug. Lundell, W. J. Sandberg, W. F. Bay and Joseph Mattes. The first officers were Henry Hansen, president; August Lundell, vice-president; W. J.

Sandberg, cashier. This bank purchased the business of the Boyer Valley Banking Company, opening for business as a state bank October 1, 1904. In 1909, a fine two story brick bank building was erected on the site of the old building, the business being conducted in the Kiron hall during the process of construction. The bank moved into its new quarters December 1, 1909 and it now occupies one of the best arranged bank buildings in the county. No robberies or losses of any kind have been sustained and the institution is one of the soundest, if not the largest, in the county. The officers are the same as those chosen in 1904 which speaks much for their successful handling of the bank. The total deposits are given as \$150,000.

The Farmers State Bank of Vail was organized July 22, 1910, with a capitalization of \$25,000. The officers were E. T. Ryan, president; C. M. Dugar, vice-president; M. L. Houlihan, Jr., cashier. The directors include the above and J. A. Dieter and George E. Dieter. Additional stock holders are M. L. Houlihan, Sr.; E. T. Ryan, Jr.; T. J. Houlihan, A. Dugan, M. J. Costello, M. O'Connor, M. A. Ryan, R. B. Houlihan. Although a new bank, it has had a remarkable growth. Its first statement, issued September 14, 1910, shows deposits of \$19,052.98. November 10, the deposits were \$49,034.03. February 8, 1911, the deposits were \$66,097.07. May 17, 1911, the deposits were \$74,855.93. The owners of the bank are the members of the well known Houlihan family and a number of the most prominent citizens of Vail. That the bank has a future before it is shown by its successful career.

The First National Bank of Manilla was organized January 22, 1901, by A. T. Bennet, F. M. Leet, A. Boysen, W. H. Hart and A. F. Puck with a capital stock of \$25,000. The bank has a handsome location on the corner of Main and 5th streets in splendidly equipped quarters. June 9, 1902, this bank purchased the control of the Commercial Bank of Manilla, assuming its business. The present officers are Edw. Saunders, president; F. A. Brown, vice-president; R. C. Jackson, cashier. The capital is \$25,000, surplus and undivided earnings, \$8,000. The deposits June 7, 1911, were \$106,689.54.

The Manilla National Bank was organized in 1887 with a capital stock of \$25,000 with S. F. Smith as president, and J. M. Roseberry, cashier. In 1888 the bank was purchased by Shaw, Kuehnle and Shaw, with L. M. Shaw, president; C. F. Kuehnle, vice-president; D. W. Shaw, cashier. The bank was nationalized December, 1901, and since the death of Mr. D. W. Shaw, F. L. Van Slyke has been cashier, with Edw. Theobald as assistant. The board of directors also includes the name of Mr. Chas. Wenzel. The bank reports a surplus of \$4,500.00 with deposits of \$125,000.

The First National Bank of Charter Oak was incorporated in July, 1890. H. N. Moore of Red Oak, Iowa, owned the controlling interest and was elected president with J. J. Shumaker cashier. These with C. H. Weed, Chas. Robertson, Gustav Rabe, O. M. Chiswell and Martin Neal formed the board of directors. In 1894 their frame building was replaced by a fine two story brick building. In July, 1898, James F. Toy, of Sioux City, bought the interest of Mr. Moore and since that time has been president of the institution. Mr. Chas. Robertson has been vice-president since 1902. Mr. P. F. Fiene is cashier and C. A. Mains

assistant cashier. This bank was the First National Bank of Crawford county. Its twenty year charter which expired in July, 1910, having been renewed for another period. The bank has enjoyed uninterrupted prosperity and is one of the strongest and conservative institutions of the county. Its capital is \$40,000, with \$10,000 surplus and in excess \$4,500.00 in undivided profits. The deposits as shown by recent statements were \$234,319.65.

The Farmers State Bank of Charter Oak was also incorporated in July 1890 with R. C. A. Flournoy, president; C. T. Marshall, vice-president, and D. O. Johnson, cashier. In January, 1902, the Flournoy stock was assumed by the Provident Bank Stock Company and Mr. T. A. Black was president. In 1903, Mr. D. O. Johnson bought the stock owned by the Provident Bank Stock Company and became president with A. F. Kadoch as cashier. Following the death of Mr. Johnson in March, 1905, the bank was reorganized, Denison capitalists becoming interested. The stockholders were L. Cornwell, George Naeve, H. F. Schwartz, J. P. Conner, M. E. Jones, C. J. Kemming, P. E. C. Lally, T. J. Garrison, and Chas. Tabor, all of the Crawford County State Bank. C. L. Voss and P. D. McMahon of the Bank of Denison and C. T. Marshall, B. C. Jacobsen, J. H. Riessen, A. F. Kadoch of Charter Oak. The officers at this time were L. Cornwell, president, C. T. Marshall, vice-president, A. F. Kadoch, cashier. Mr. Kadoch resigned in 1897 and was succeeded by H. A. Tinker who served with the bank until June, 1909, when Mr. A. F. Barber succeeded him with E. W. Timm as assistant cashier, and E. E. Lehman, bookkeeper. The capital stock has always been \$25,000, and with its stockholders embracing such a list of the wealthiest men in the county, there is no question as to the bank's stability. The present officers are C. L. Voss, president; George Naeve, vice-president, A. F. Barber, cashier, E. W. Timm, assistant cashier. The directors are, C. L. Voss, George Naeve, J. P. Conner, H. F. Schwartz, M. E. Jones, J. H. Riessen and E. W. Timm.

The German Savings Bank of Ricketts was organized in 1901 by James F. Toy, Chas. Robertson, E. E. Springer, John Dolieu, and Adolph Meyer. The capital stock was \$10,000. The officers were James F. Toy, president; Chas. Robertson, vice-president; P. F. Fiene, cashier. The present stockholders are James F. Toy, Gustav Rabe, Hinrich Claussen, A. H. Wendt, August Meyer, Fred Giestorf, S. F. Hoffman, P. H. Claussen. The present officers are James F. Toy, president; Gustav Rabe, vice-president; P. H. Claussen, cashier, M. L. Runge, assistant cashier. The bank has a surplus of \$5,000 and undivided profits of \$3,000. The deposits are in excess of \$120,000, which is a large showing when the size of the town is considered.

The Bank of Buck Grove was established in 1905, and is a private bank with \$10,000 capital owned by Mr. Dan'l Hemphill. The average deposits are about \$40,000. This bank was originated after the failure of the banks owned by S. H. Greene of Dow City, which deprived Buck Grove of banking facilities. The new bank has had a prosperous career.

Baxter Reed and Co., bankers of Schleswig, are private bankers who have been doing business in Ida Grove since 1880. The Schleswig branch was started in November, 1899. The firm is capitalized with \$100,000 with a surplus of



BANK BLOCK, CHARTER OAK

\$200,000. Mr. Theodore Rohwer is cashier and H. A. Klotz assistant. A recent statement of the Baxter Reed and Company bank gives its deposits as \$266,863.68.

The German Bank of Schleswig commenced business July 9, 1901. Their capital is \$25,000 and their average deposits about \$275,000. The first cashier of the bank was Mr. Emil Kruger, formerly clerk of the district court. Upon his death in 1906, he was succeeded by B. S. Andresen. The other officers of the bank are L. Cornwell, president; George Naeve, vice-president.

The Valley Bank of West Side with their responsibility of \$450,000 is one of the notable banking institutions of the county. It was organized in 1878 and was first called the Exchange Bank. For a time it was owned by C. D. Miller. E. S. Kentner was the next owner and he changed the name to The Valley Bank. Mr. C. W. Payne purchased the business in June, 1890, and Mr. George E. Spottswood was appointed cashier. In 1901 Mr. Payne purchased the Citizens Bank of West Side from Gustav Gredert and consolidated the business with that of the Valley Bank. At this time E. B. Spottswood was employed as assistant cashier. In April, 1908, the cashier, Mr. George E. Spottswood died and his brother E. B. Spottswood was promoted to the position, with Harry A. Moeller as assistant. In Nov., 1908, Mr. E. J. Danett succeeded Mr. Moeller. Mr. Payne, the owner of the bank, is one of the wealthiest men in Crawford county and is noted for his many sterling qualities. The bank occupies comfortable quarters in a fine brick structure and is equipped with fire proof vault and all the other paraphernalia of a first class institution.

The Arion State Bank was organized August 1, 1902, with a capital of \$25,000. The first directors were George Rae, Thomas Rae, J. I. Maurer, Sam Fox Sr., A. A. Conrad, George V. Jordan, Thos. Hederman, Dan'l Hemphill, and Wm. Eggers.

J. L. Maurer was the first president of the bank and G. V. Jordan the first vice-president. The present officers are Sam Fox Sr., president, Wm. Eggers, vice-president, and O. M. Criswell, cashier. Among the directors are L. C. Butler, G. V. Jordan and Thos. Hederman. The deposits of the bank are given as \$30,000.

The Traders Bank of Vail was established by A. A. Leachey and C. E. Price. Later Mr. Price became the sole owner and he afterward sold the bank to Mr. W. A. McHenry of Denison. Mr. Price remained with the bank as cashier for about a year and then removed to Council Bluffs. The present officers are W. A. McHenry, president; Sears McHenry, vice-president; Henry Stuck, cashier; W. A. Maguire, assistant. The capital is \$25,000 and the bank enjoys good patronage.

The Bank of Dow City is also a part of the McHenry banking system and it has the entire confidence of its community. This bank was established soon after the failure of the Exchange Bank of Dow City and at a time when the people were greatly in need of banking accommodations. The officers of the bank are W. A. McHenry, president; Sears McHenry, vice-president, W. E. Fishel, cashier; and E. G. Wiggins, assistant. It also has a capital of \$25,000. A midnight burglary by which the bank lost approximately \$5,000 is the only sensational event in the history of this substantial and thriving institution.

The Farmers' Bank, of West Side, was organized in 1892. It is a private bank, owned by Mr. J. H. C. Peters, who is assisted in its management by his sons, E. J. Peters and A. C. Peters. The bank is located in comfortable quarters, has a large line of deposits and is in a flourishing condition.

CHAPTER XXIX.

THE PRESS.

Perhaps we are partial and prejudiced but to us it seems that no other single element of a community can equal in influence for good or for evil, can be of greater benefit or of more harm, than can the press. In following the history of Denison and of the county, we have found that in nearly every instance those things which have been made for the progress of the community, have been urged by the newspapers long before they were finally adopted by the people. Sometimes those propositions were rejected by the popular vote, but the persistent agitation of the press finally secured their adoption, and it is a historic fact that, in this community at least, the majority of the measures advocated by the newspapers from time to time have uniformly proven to have been for the public good. Incorporation was urged by the Denison newspapers for several years before the people acted favorable. There followed a long line of "agitations." Agitation for sidewalks, for a public library, for improvements in the public school system, for manufacturing enterprises, for additional railroad facilities, for the conservation of Grace park, which unfortunately was not adopted. In fact, all the good things which the community enjoys have been those adopted largely through the efforts and influence of the press.

The history of the Crawford county press is one of which to be proud. The newspapers have uniformly kept ahead of like papers in other counties and they have always kept ahead, rather than lagged behind the demands of the community.

Soon after establishing the town of Denison, Mr. J. W. Denison, who was in many respects a far sighted and able man, decided that the interests of the community demanded some organ for the dissemination of news. He accordingly purchased a printing plant in Cincinnati, Ohio. This outfit consisted of a Washington hand press, a considerable amount of job type and other office paraphernalia. This was shipped as far as possible by rail, and then completed its journey overland.

The Boyer Valley Record was established in 1860 and was first published by Mr. Denison himself. At that time, when everything had to be hauled many miles to Denison, it was almost impossible to obtain what are known as ready prints with any regularity. We have been unable to secure a copy of this first

newspaper, but we understand that it was a five-column, four-page paper, and of necessity printed all at home. Mr. Denison soon secured the services of Mr. Crowell as printer and editor. Newton Brogden, now of Deloit, assisted in this first printing office. The field was very limited and the returns could not have been at all commensurate with the labor involved. The publication of the Boyer Valley Record was continued until Mr. Crowell became engaged in an unfortunate altercation with Mr. I. N. Allen, during the course of which the latter was killed by a blow on the head with some blunt instrument. Mr. Crowell was arraigned and taken to Sioux City for trial where he was released upon the ground of self-defense. This tragic affair ended the existence of the Record, and no printers being available, Mr. Denison stored the type and machinery in a little building on the site of the present city hall. It was not until the coming of the railroad that the paper was revived. Mr. G. W. Stephens, an expert printer, who had been residing at Jefferson, heard of the Denison outfit and together with Mr. M. H. Money, editor of the Jefferson Bee, leased the plant.

The first building occupied was the old log schoolhouse, which had been superseded by the small brick building in the western part of town. The name of the new paper was the Denison Review. The date of the first issue was May 3, 1867. The paper was a six-column folio or a four-page paper. After a two years' struggle against many difficulties, and discouraged by the business situation and by the fact that the crops had been injured by grasshoppers, Mr. Stephens was compelled to suspend publication. The absence of a newspaper was severely felt by the community, and on July 16, 1869, the paper was revived by Mr. J. D. Ainsworth, who with the assistance of Mr. H. C. Laub, purchased the plant and reestablished the paper which has been in continuous existence since that time and which has the honor of being the oldest institution in Crawford county, doing business under the same name. We have a copy of this first issue, which is a six-column, four-page newspaper, and it may be of interest to quote from the introductory editorial, which reads as follows:

INTRODUCTION.

"In resuming the publication of The Review and in presenting to you this, our first number, it is needless for us to say much by way of introduction. The paper speaks for itself now, as it ever will. We have come to your fertile prairie country, and your thriving town, for the sole purpose of earning our living, and that by the sweat of our brow. With the interest of this country lie our interests. Upon the prosperity of this town depends our own success, to a certain extent.

"All who may think we are now going to bind ourselves by many promises as to what shall be our future course of action, are sadly mistaken. We always have been obstinate, and bound, we will not be. We profess to be ruled by no party, clique or set. Shall endeavor to make the Review an advocate of that which we believe to be right.

"It shall be our aim, however, to devote the paper, first, to local news and interests; in furtherance of that object we invite a correspondence from all



THEODORE ROOSEVELT AT DENISON



REVIEW BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Issuing the paper in old frame building while brick block was under construction

upon any interesting topic. In its columns may be found all the official news of the county.'

"Politically, it will be radically republican. Working with the republican party so long as their principles accord with truth and justice. Yet we propose to treat honestly all who may differ with us politically, and not to indulge in personal political abuse.

"Fun, art, agriculture and general miscellany will each have their due share of attention.

"All in all, we shall endeavor to give you a *live* paper, and one that we trust you may be proud of. We ask your support and influence in extending its circulation, feeling confident that we ask not in vain."

The form of the paper was soon changed to an eight-column, four-page paper, part of it being printed in Chicago. It continued in this form until 1873, when it was changed to its present form, a six-column paper of eight pages.

The Review prospered under the management of Mr. Ainsworth for several years; finally, however, he suffered from severe mental trouble and the Review was temporarily edited by Mr. H. C. Laub and other of Mr. Ainsworth's friends, but finally he was able to resume the editorship.

In the year 1874, Mr. J. Fred Meyers, who was at that time a chief of division in the Treasury Department at Washington, D. C., visited Denison looking for a location. He became interested in the village and was assured the cordial support of the people. Accordingly, in the fall of 1874, he purchased the Review, the editorship of which was to be his life work. Mr. Meyers retained an active interest in the Review and its fortunes until the time of his death, May 1, 1898. He was sole editor and publisher until 1882, when he sold the paper to Wrigley Brothers, although he continued to be the editorial writer. In April, 1884, he repurchased the paper taking as his partner his son, Charles K. Meyers. During much of the years following, Mr. J. Fred Meyers was absent from the city, having been appointed to a position in the treasury department by President Harrison, and the management of the paper was in the hands of his son, with the exception of the editorial columns. In 1893, this partnership was dissolved, Mr. Charles Meyers going to Mason City, where with his brother, F. W. Meyers, the Cerro Gordo County Republican was purchased. Following this Mr. Meyers leased the Review to Mr. C. E. Wood, who retired from the paper July 1, 1897, when it was leased to F. W. Meyers and E. F. Tucker. They continued the publication of the paper for several years, Mr. Meyers later leasing his interests to Mr. Tucker. Mr. F. W. Meyers resumed control of the paper January 1, 1905. Soon after that the Review Publishing Company was formed with Mr. Meyers as editor and manager. This position he resigned January 1, 1910, having sold his interests to Hon. J. P. Conner, the Review being now under the management of his son, R. P. Conner, with F. W. Meyers as editorial contributor.

Under the editorial management of Mr. J. Fred Meyers, the Review was one of the best known and most largely quoted newspapers in Iowa. It had a great and commanding influence with a large circle of readers and the editorial portion of the paper was the one first read and longest remembered. For many years the Review occupied a frame building on the corner of Main and

Tremont streets and this was finally succeeded by the handsome brick structure on the same site. The office is one of the best equipped of its kind, being provided with a linotype machine of latest model, with good press and all needed equipment. The Review has been consistently republican since its first issue and has done much in the support of its party principles and to secure those honors which have been worthily bestowed upon Denison citizens from time to time. The Review now has a circulation of 2,800, and may well be considered one of the strong weekly papers of Iowa.

THE DENISON BULLETIN.

With the growth of Denison occurred that healthy division of public opinion which is the life of any town. The political unanimity which prevailed immediately after the war was broken by differences on economic questions and this state of affairs made an opening for another newspaper in Denison. To Mr. G. W. Stephens, the founder of the Review, must also be given the credit for founding the Denison Bulletin, which began its existence in 1873, with Stephens and Daniels as editors and publishers. After two years the interest of Mr. Daniels was purchased by Mr. A. B. Keith who had, prior to that time, been employed on a Dunlap paper. A building was erected on Broadway, which was the home of the Bulletin for many years. In 1875, Mr. Keith purchased Mr. Stephens' interest and the paper, which started as an independent organ, became Democratic.

Mr. Keith was a clever and brilliant writer and a good newspaper man. Unfortunately the careers of both the Review and the Bulletin during these and succeeding years were marred by many bitter personalities which form the only dark pages in Crawford county's newspaper history. The political revolution of the early '80s by which Crawford became a democratic county, gave added prosperity to the Bulletin and it continued a successful career under the management of Mr. Keith until 1889, when he sold the paper to Mr. Henry A. Cook, who was its editor and owner until 1897. In the campaign of 1896, Mr. Cook refused to follow the majority of his party in the support of Bryan, and this course caused such an estrangement among his party followers, that he thought best to retire from the field, and the paper was sold to a stock company composed of a number of prominent democrats of the county. In the fall of 1897, Mr. G. L. Caswell, came from Rock Rapids, Iowa, and purchased the paper which he has since edited, continuing it as an exponent of democratic doctrines. In 1902, Mr. Caswell purchased the corner property on Main and Tremont streets directly south of the opera house, and on the site of Denison's first store building, and in 1903, the Bulletin moved into the first home of its own which it ever had. In 1910, the old building was replaced by a modern, two-story and basement, brick building which makes a very pleasant and suitable newspaper home. In 1905, the Bulletin was equipped with a Unitype typesetting machine, and in 1910 the office was further equipped with electric power, completing what is now a modern and up-to-date plant. The paper is now published as a twelve-page, six-column weekly, and gives excellent news

service. There will always be room for two strong well edited newspapers in Denison, and both will doubtless continue their successful careers for many years to come.

THE VAIL OBSERVER.

The oldest paper in Crawford county outside of Denison is the Vail Observer, which is now in its thirty-third year. The Observer was founded by G. A. W. Davidson, in May, 1878. In 1879, the paper was purchased by J. Otto Engstrom, who again sold it in 1880, to Gregg and Roberts. The Observer began life as a six-column, four-page paper, printed all at home; later it was changed to an eight-column folio and ready prints were used. Mr. Roberts bought the interest of Mr. Gregg and conducted the Observer until his death, in the spring of 1881, when his father, J. H. Roberts, Sr., ran it for a short time before disposing of it to H. C. Ford.

October 1, 1881, Mr. Davidson repurchased the paper and soon after changed it to a five-column quarto. In 1885, he sold to Mr. R. A. Nicholson who again changed the paper to its present size as a six-column quarto and who conducted it most successfully until June, 1897, when he sold to Mr. C. C. Vail. Mr. Nicholson, enlarged the plant in many ways, adding a new job press and replacing the old hand newspaper press by a cylinder press. Mr. Vail also added much to the office installing gasoline power and making other improvements. January 1, 1910, Mr. Vail sold the Observer to Mr. M. J. Monaghan, the present publisher, who is proving both popular and successful.

In politics, the Observer has always been run on a strictly non-partisan basis, thus avoiding the enmities usually incurred by political organs. Its sole aim is to give the news of the people of Vail and Crawford county. It enjoys an excellent advertising patronage and shows every sign of prosperity.

DIE DENISON ZEITUNG.

In point of seniority, the next paper in Crawford county is Die Denison Zeitung, established in 1879, by J. Fred Meyers, as a German edition of the Review. The fact that this paper was found necessary and profitable is evidence of the large German emigration which had already taken place. Die Zeitung, for many years had its home with the Review and was under the direct editorial control of Mr. J. Fred Meyers. During the later years of Review ownership, Mr. Frank Faul was employed as editor. The fact that Mr. Meyers remained a republican while a larger part of his German constituents entered the democratic party, caused such dissatisfaction with the editorial management of the Zeitung that Mr. Meyers found it advisable to dispose of the paper and he accordingly sold it to Prof. J. F. Harthun, who had come to Denison as a teacher of a German school founded by the Germania Verein. Mr. Harthun has been a successful publisher of the Zeitung for many years. His paper is independent in politics and has a wide following. He is a polished German scholar, and is highly respected by his constituents.

CRAWFORD COUNTY DEMOKRAT.

This paper was founded in 1887, and was first owned by a stock company of prominent German democrats, with Mr. Frank Faul as editor. Mr. Faul became the owner of the paper in 1897, and continued as editor and publisher until January 1, 1911, when he sold the paper to Mr. Henry Finnern and Mr. Otto Vosgerau, who are the present publishers. As its name implies, the paper has always been democratic in politics and has filled its field of usefulness with much credit. The present publishers are young and ambitious men of experience as printers and publishers and under their management the Demokrat will undoubtedly continue to be a strong factor among the newspapers of the town.

DOW CITY ENTERPRISE.

The Dow City Enterprise is the direct descendant of the "Boyer Valley Clipper," established in Dow City in December, 1888, with E. E. Nichols, then superintendent of the school, as editor. Mr. Nichols continued the publication of the Clipper until February, 1891, when it was purchased by A. H. Rudd, who continued to publish it by that name, until May of the same year, when it was changed to its present title, "The Enterprise." Mr. Rudd continued as editor until April, 1895, when the paper was leased to A. E. Pelton, who presided over its destinies until January 1, 1896, when T. J. Wayne became its editor and continued until July 1, 1896, when the owner A. H. Rudd, resumed charge. Mr. Rudd has been the editor and publisher since that time. When the paper was purchased by Mr. Rudd, the consideration was only \$200, but he has added to it from time to time until it is now equipped with large and modern power presses, gasoline engine, and all the other necessary machinery and type for a large and complete office. The Enterprise started in a small rented room, and it is now in a home of its own, yielding excellent returns to its capable and well known editor. The earnings of the office for the first year under the present ownership were about \$800, and in 1910 the earnings were \$3,230.

Prior to the establishment of The Clipper, a paper known as the Criterion, was published in Dow City, having been established in 1878, by F. Bangs. The life of this paper was about one year. Even prior to this Dow City enjoyed newspaper privileges through the medium of a written paper which was read at Lyceum readings.

THE CHARTER OAK TIMES.

The Charter Oak Times was one of the first papers established along the line of the Manilla and Sioux City branch of the Milwaukee. The paper was founded by J. Edward McMullen, and we will let him tell his own story as to the starting of the paper. Mr. McMullen says:

"In May, 1887, by invitation of citizens, I visited Charter Oak, reaching there about the time passenger traffic went into effect. The town was crude in

its newness, for excepting the Old Oak store, kept by W. W. Cushman, hardly another building was completed. At Centerville, South Dakota, where I had come from, I was told what a barren and God-forsaken section of Iowa Charter Oak was in, but in driving over the hills, to my joy I found myself in the center of a rich and thriving farm and stock country. I immediately decided that Charter Oak had the making of a splendid town, and set about to move my little printing outfit from Centerville. When it arrived, the only place I could find was a little tar-paper shack that stood behind the Old Oak store. It had been used as a bed-room for a wagon maker by the name of John Cooper, but for a newspaper, he gladly vacated. My first issue of the Times was in June, 1887. It was a seven-column folio, printed on pink paper, and a few years ago I was told that several copies were in existence. The paper took from the start, everybody wanted it, and as for advertising, I had so much that the Dunlap Herald once said: 'The Charter Oak Times has more advertising and less reading matter than any other paper in Iowa.'

"Charlie Wood erected an office and residence building for me and later the land company gave me a lot for advertising, and I soon had an office building and home of my own. Shaw & Kuehnle loaned me \$400 on my office outfit when I moved in from Dakota, and though I was slow in paying, they treated me royally. Owing to illness, I sold out in 1891, to Hills & Jennings, a sale which I have always regretted.

"Before the Times was established, Mr. J. Fred Meyers issued a small sheet from his office in Denison for the benefit of the then booming town, but when I came in he gracefully retired and then and forever after he was one of my best friends, and much of his advice I cherish to this day."

The present owner of the Charter Oak Times, H. H. Sturges, bought the business and the plant from F. L. Hills, who is at present recorder in Woodbury county. Mr. Hills had held the possession of the paper only about sixteen months, but the months were crowded full of cares and sorrows, until he was glad to be released. While here his wife was taken sick, and for nearly a year she was in a hospital, at last giving up the struggle and leaving her family to travel the sea of life alone. After leaving Charter Oak he returned to his former home at Oto, there to regather his spent forces and regain his stand among the men of business.

Mr. Hills purchased it from Jenness & Shoup. Mr. Shoup had conducted the Herald and L. B. Jenness, later of Danbury, now gone west, purchased the Republican from W. S. McVey. They effected an agreement by which the two papers were merged, and the old name of the Times, which had been dropped on a former merging, was revived.

Mr. Sturges entered the Charter Oak field on the 23d day of June, 1901. Since that time he has been at the wheel. During the ten years of his management the paper has been increased in business, both in its advertising patronage and circulation, and the plant has been materially improved. Power was added in 1908, and the type equipment doubled. The Charter Oak people are very loyal to their newspaper, and in return the publisher volunteers, thirteen dollars, seventy-five cents; for taking gun accoutrement and is doing his best to make it worthy of them.

THE SCHLESWIG LEADER.

The town of Schleswig had been organized but a short time before the need of a newspaper was felt. This demand was met by the launching of the Schleswig Herald, edited by M. R. Hueschen. This paper made its first appearance January 1, 1900, and was printed in German. October 1, 1903, the paper was purchased by F. J. Branaka, who made it an English paper, with a portion printed in German, and who changed the name to "The Leader." Mr. Branaka continued with the paper until August 1, 1909, when it was purchased by the present editor, R. E. Vaughan. The paper is independent in politics, gives the news of the vicinity, and is popular with its people.

THE KIRON NEWSPAPERS.

Three months after the appearance of the Schleswig Herald, or to be more exact, on March 24, 1900, the first Kiron newspaper made its appearance. The paper owned by Ward Brothers, and was called the Sentinel. Later H. T. Ward became the sole owner, and he sold his interest to Lawrence & Son in 1905. These owners merged the "Sentinel" with "The News," the first issue of which appeared on Tuesday, February 22, 1902. The first issue of "The News" was an eight-page, home print sheet, eight by eleven inches in size. The subscription price was 25 cents per year. On the Saturday before the News and the Sentinel were to be consolidated, Fred A. Lawrence, the ambitious young editor, was stricken by death and P. C. Lawrence, a younger brother, became the editor.

The News continued under the management of J. A. Lawrence and P. C. Lawrence until August 18, 1910, when it was purchased by the present editor, E. B. Nordell. Mr. Nordell is a Crawford county boy, born in the old town of Kiron, in 1892. He gained his education in the schools of the county and at Denison College, and he entered the newspaper business without an hour's experience in the printing line. That he has made the "News" a success, speaks much for his grit and ability. The News is a good local paper and has excellent support.

THE MANILLA ENTERPRISE.

The Manilla Enterprise represents the survival of the fittest in the Manilla newspaper field. For a number of years two newspapers struggled in the field which at that time was barely sufficient for one. The result as usual was poor newspapers, factional struggles, and ill feeling. Manilla is to be congratulated that it now has but one newspaper and that a good one.

Shortly after the town started, the Manilla Register was launched by a Mr. Baer. This plant was purchased by E. E. Nichols, who for many years was a factor in the newspaper history of the town. Several years later M. Morgan issued a paper known as the Manilla Advocate. This paper suspended publication and Mr. Morgan leased the Register, which he conducted for two years. Mr. Nichols then resumed charge of the Register, publishing it for a

year after which it was suspended. In the meantime M. Morgan established the Manilla Republican. This paper lived for several years and until its subscription list was taken over by the Denison Review. The Manilla Monitor was another paper established in 1889, which led a precarious existence of only six months.

The Manilla Times was established August 11, 1899, by J. J. McDermott. It was first published as a five-column quarto, then enlarged to six columns, and is now a seven-column, eight-page paper. In 1907, the Enterprise publishing plant of Defiance, Iowa, together with the large stock catalogue printing business, was purchased of S. E. Zollinger, and the plant was moved to Manilla and consolidated with the Times. This gives the office a linotype and a first-class newspaper and job printing plant. The paper is independent in politics and has a large circulation and good advertising patronage, not only this, but it is as good a weekly paper as is published in any town the size of Manilla.

Not all the papers published in Crawford county have been successful. There have been a number of attempts to establish a third English paper in Denison, all of which have failed. Mr. Ben Spear issued a populist paper for some time. Mr. H. A. Cook made the most pretentious effort in this line, establishing the Journal, which was published as a gold democratic paper. The Journal was finally purchased by the Review, as was the last of the three papers attempted, which was edited by W. S. McVey. Mr. McVey was also at one time editor of the "Republican," published at Charter Oak, and of the Arion "Anchor." Manilla was also blessed with two papers for some time, the "Register," which was last published by Mr. Morgan, having been merged into the Denison Review, as was also the Arion Anchor. Taken all in all, the press of the county has been very creditable to its people although, as usual, the editors have given more and received less than almost any other class of people. The days of the "poor editor" have fortunately passed, however; pumpkins and cord wood are no longer recognized legal tender in the editorial sanctums, and the newspapers of the county may now, all of them, be said to be on a good paying business basis.

WEST SIDE JOURNAL.

West Side seems to have been considered a splendid field for newspaper enterprise, and at one time there were three newspapers in the village. West Side has had a series of newspapers, and a number of well known pioneer editors have graduated from that community. At present West Side rejoices in an excellent local paper styled The Journal and edited by Mr. Max Hueschen.

CHAPTER XXX.

THE OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION.

One of the annual events which is becoming more interesting and important with each passing year is the Old Settlers' Picnic held under the auspices of the association of that name. These picnics have been the occasion for much eloquence and fervid oratory but their chief charm lies in the meeting of old friends, the familiar faces seen again, the grasp of welcoming hands. No one who has not lived with these kindly, capable people for many years can appreciate them at their full value. It is not until one has lived with them and joyed with them and sorrowed with them, yea, not until one has gone down into the Valley of the Shadow with them and they with him, that he can really know the people of Crawford county for what they are.

For many the light of other days is round them, the gaps in the crowd are filled with shadowy faces, there are echoes from inaudible voices and smiles from unseen lips. The ranks of the pioneers are thinning fast. Very few remain of all the young, intrepid men and women who found their homes in the well nigh trackless wilderness of Crawford county a half century ago. Of the period from 1860 to 1870 there are more but it is only after the third decade of county history is reached that we find them in considerable numbers. The death roll of the past eleven years speaks eloquently of the passing of the pioneer. The facts are that the genuine old settlers are becoming extinct and that the young settlers are becoming old. The old settlers' picnics have done much to foster the love of our county, of our homes and of each other. The institution is a part of the great melting pot in which German-Americans, Irish-Americans, Swedish-Americans, American-Americans lose their hyphenated names and become Americans one and all.

In previous chapters has been noted the gatherings out of which the Old Settlers' Picnics have had their origin. The Fourth of July celebrations with their "free dinners," at which almost every citizen of the county was present. The Centennial celebration at which Thos. Dobson, the first historian of the county, re-told the story of the early days, the first real gathering of old settlers as such at Deloit. The story has been thus brought down to the year 1900 and it is from this point that we take up the story of the old settlers' picnics.

The Picnic of 1900.—This was held at Dow City and it was a great success. Hon. A. Van Wagenen, of Sioux City, was the orator of the day. Uncle Morris McHenry presided and among the speakers were J. R. Romans, Taylor Dunham

and John Dobson. Mrs. Bruner read an interesting history of the western part of the county, and Charles McHenry sang some of his inimitable songs. At the business meeting Mr. J. B. Romans was elected President, and it had long since become the honored and established custom to elect N. L. Hunt as secretary.

The Picnic of 1901.—This was held at Denison on August 22nd. President J. B. Romans presided. Mayor A. D. Wilson gave the address of welcome and S. J. Woodruff the response. Hon. J. P. Conner was the chief orator and his address was followed by an original poem by J. L. Ainsworth. Mr. John Dobson read a biography of Mr. J. B. Huckstep, Hon. H. C. Laub a biography of Charles Noble and Uncle Morris McHenry read biographies of Ethan and Esau McKim and S. B. Greek. The three oldest children born in the county were found to be N. L. Hunt, Mrs. Mary Greek Carey and A. H. Rudd. The three oldest settlers present were Mrs. Margaret Mason Richardson, John Dobson and John Rudd. The officers elected were H. C. Laub, President; John Dobson, Vice President; N. L. Hunt, Secretary; and Morris McHenry, Historian.

Inclement weather did its best to interfere with the reunion of 1902, which was held in Denison. A good crowd was present in spite of the rain, but the exercises were not commenced until the afternoon. Hon. H. C. Laub presided, Rev. E. M. Holmes pronounced the invocation, the Boys' Band furnished music. Mayor J. T. Carey gave an address of welcome, which was responded to by Rev. Gillies, of Charter Oak. Hon. P. E. C. Lally was the orator. After his address there were short talks by F. L. Johnson, B. F. Galland, Mrs. Hannah Matthews, John Dobson and Thos. Rae. The officers elected were John Dobson, President; J. B. Romans, Vice President; N. L. Hunt, Secretary; S. McHenry, Treasurer; Morris McHenry, Historian. A board of township directors was also elected as follows: Iowa, Chas. Miller; Nishnabotny, F. E. Macomber; Washington, S. M. Thew; Boyer, W. A. Davie; Willow, F. R. Shirtcliff; Paradise, Geo. V. Jordan; Denison, J. T. Carey; East Boyer, S. W. Slater; Hays, Henry Hagge; West Side, Tracy Chapman; Milford, Chas. Shives; Goodrich, D. F. Woodruff; Hanover, Wm. Flaherty; Charter Oak, Abe Hart; Soldier, Mike Houlihan; Morgan, Herman Schultz; Otter Creek, Henry Naeve; Stockholm, F. L. Johnson; Jackson, Ed Downey.

The picnic of 1903 was held at Denison under ideal weather conditions and a large crowd was present. President John Dobson presided and Elder J. T. Turner, of Deloit, pronounced the invocation. The address of welcome was made by Mayor Carey, and responded to by Mrs. Maggie Talcott, of Dow City. Hon. Jacob Sims was the orator for the year. Short talks were made by Hon. Chas. Bullock, Hon. T. C. Blume, B. F. Wicks, Morris McHenry, T. C. Dobson, Z. T. Hawk and B. F. Galland. An original poem, written by Mr. Hugh O'Hare was read by J. L. Ainsworth. The officers elected were Abe Hart, President, and N. L. Hunt, Secretary.

August 30th was the date of the picnic of 1904. The day was cloudy and threatening but a good crowd was present. Mayor Carey called the meeting to order at 2 o'clock and the invocation was pronounced by Rev. W. E. Bryce. In the absence of the President, Mr. J. B. Romans presided. Rev. J. B. Harris delivered the address of the day and he was followed by a short talk by Mr. John Dobson. The officers elected were: President, Dr. Darling, of Vail; Vice Presi-



GROUP OF OLD SETTLERS
All of these had been in the county fifty years

dent, Dr. W. B. Evans, of Arion; Secretary, N. L. Hunt; Treasurer, T. C. Blume; Historian, Morris McHenry. After the business session Mr. C. F. Kuehnle made a brief address. One of the features of the day was the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Noonan of Washington township, with their three year old triplets. They were obliged to come forward and sit on the stand as a sample of the good things Crawford county could produce.

The picnic of 1905 was celebrated as the fiftieth anniversary of the county. It was a big affair, the largest picnic which had been held in the county up to that time. Special efforts had been made to make this an extraordinary success. The Oaks Quartette, composed of David and James Waterhouse, W. S. Mitchell and L. E. Goodwin, all of Charter Oak, furnished special musical numbers.

Dr. E. Darling called the meeting to order in the forenoon. The address of welcome was delivered by Hon. Chas. Bullock and responded to by Hon. T. C. Blume. Hon. J. P. Conner was the orator of the occasion.

The afternoon program was of real historical importance. The program had been arranged so as to cover the complete history of the county. Mr. John Dobson spoke of the "Beginnings of Crawford County," Morris McHenry covered the period from 1855 to 1865, H. C. Laub carried the story on to 1875. At this point in the program Secretary Leslie M. Shaw was introduced. This came as a surprise as it was not known that he would be in the city until the day before. His proud friends and neighbors gave him a royal welcome. Truman J. Campbell made one of the hits of the day. He had been assigned the history from 1885 to 1895 and he responded by singing an original song which related the history of the decade assigned him. C. F. Kuehnle brought the history down to date. Other features were "The Sons and Daughters of the Pioneers" by S. J. Woodruff, "The Coming of the Irish," by M. O'Connor, a portion of which excellent historical document is included in this volume, "Crawford County's Old Soldiers," by A. J. Bond and the "Coming of the Swedes," by A. Norelius. The only fault with the program was its extreme length, but from an historical standpoint it was the best the association has ever had. The officers elected were: President, Truman J. Campbell; Vice President, C. H. Weed; Secretary, N. L. Hunt. It was on this occasion that the photograph of the pioneers of fifty years was taken, a picture which is reproduced in this volume.

August 30, 1906, was the occasion for another great picnic which was said to have beaten the one of the year before in point of attendance. President Campbell called the meeting to order and presided. A chorus, led by Mr. B. J. Sibbert furnished music. Mr. C. F. Kuehnle made the address of welcome, presenting the Old Settlers with a great, gilded key to the city. Another interesting event was the presentation to the association by Mrs. Allie J. Robinson, of an historic old flag. Mrs. Robinson made a presentation speech, telling how in the early days the good ladies of Milford township felt that there should be a flag at the Fourth of July celebration and how they had thereupon gathered at the home of Mrs. Huchstep and made the flag which she presented. Hon. C. G. Saunders of Council Bluffs was the orator of the day.

A unique feature of the day was a reproduction of the first school in the county. This was conducted by Mr. Morris McHenry, the first teacher. The old roll of twenty-six pupils was called and seven of the former scholars re-

sponded to their names and took seats on the platform. Mr. McHenry made them recite some of the old lessons. The program closed with an original poem by J. L. Ainsworth and the business session at which A. H. Rudd was elected President and N. L. Hunt Secretary.

September 5th was the picnic day for 1907 and two thousand people were present. President A. H. Rudd presided and Mr. C. F. Kuehnle introduced the speaker of the day, Elder Heman C. Smith, historian of the church of Latter Day Saints, of Lamoni, Iowa.

Taking a lesson from the length of former programs, this program was brief and after the close of the address only a business session was held at which the following officers were elected: President, C. M. Criswell; Vice President, Dr. E. Darling; Secretary, N. L. Hunt; Treasurer, M. E. Jones.

The picnic of 1908 was held in Denison on September 1st. At this time a by-law was introduced fixing Denison as the permanent place of meeting and also fixing the date. Hon. P. E. C. Lally was the speaker of the day. Col. Geo. I. Wright, now of Denver, Colorado, was at his old home for a visit and he responded with a talk on old times. The oldest pioneers present were Mrs. J. O'Banion of Boyer township and John Dobson of Deloit. The officers elected were Chas. Bullock, President; John Dobson, Vice President; N. L. Hunt, Secretary and Treasurer.

Rain seriously interfered with the picnic held September 3d, 1909, at Denison. On account of illness President Bullock was unable to preside and Vice President John Dobson took his place. The address of welcome was delivered by Mayor W. C. Rollins. Readings were given by Miss Florence Baker and Miss Martha Hugg. The speaker of the day was Hon. L. T. Genung, of Glenwood, Iowa. The officers elected were: President, Hon. J. P. Conner; Vice Presidents, Dr. Darling, Vail; John Dobson, Deloit; Chas. Robertson, Charter Oak; Morris McHenry, Dow City; and T. J. Campbell, Manilla; Secretary, N. L. Hunt, and Treasurer, S. McHenry. At this meeting it was decided to locate the picnics permanently at Denison.

The picnic of 1910 was held on September 9th. Sears McHenry presided in lieu of Judge Conner, who was ill. The Vail band furnished music and the meeting opened with the singing of a number of old-time songs. Judge Conner's address was read by Mr. McHenry and T. J. Campbell responded with an original song. The oration of the day was delivered by Hon. Walter I. Smith of Council Bluffs.

At the close of the address was held the baby show. Hon. J. P. Conner had donated twenty-five dollars to be given in prizes to the prettiest babies born in Crawford county of Crawford county parents. There were numerous entries. The judges were E. Gulick, Mrs. F. H. Morgan and Mrs. O. M. Criswell. The prize winners were Baby Goldbeck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Goldbeck; Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. McAhren, and Alice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Messenbrink. It was announced that, through the generosity of Judge Conner, the baby show would be made a permanent feature of future picnics.

The picnic for 1911 will take place on August 31st and the following program has been arranged: Address of Welcome, President W. C. Rollins; Re-



OLD SETTLERS' PICNIC AT DENTON, SEPTEMBER 1, 1908

sponse, Hon. W. A. Davie; "County History," F. W. Meyers; Address, United States Senator W. S. Kenyon. The Conner Baby Show will also be a feature.

This chapter devoted to the old settlers' organization would not be complete without special mention of two men who have done more than all others to maintain the interest in the gatherings and to do the unselfish, hard work of which too little is thought, but upon which the entire success of the undertaking rests. One of these men is N. L. Hunt, born in the county and one of its oldest settlers although still far from being an old man. He has been secretary of the association for many years and he is always at his post and each year he is the old, reliable stand-by who starts the wheels and keeps the machinery of the association in order. The other is Eugene Gulick, Imperial Coffeemaker to the Old Settlers of Crawford County. It has become an established custom that free coffee and tea shall be served at the annual picnics. This is paid for by the people of Denison but it is made by Eugene Gulick. No matter where he may be he always returns to Denison for the picnic and superintends all the arrangements for the coffee-fest. It is a labor of love and it is well done every year. Undoubtedly others will be raised up to carry on the work should they join the vast majority of the pioneers, but to very many the old settlers' picnics would not be the same without N. L. Hunt as secretary and without "Gene" Gulick's hearty laugh to sweeten the coffee.

The association has been successful in its primary purpose, that of affording a meeting place and a glad holiday for the old settlers of the county, but it has failed to accomplish all that it might as an historical association. Steps should be taken to better preserve the history of the county as it is made from day to day. The historian's report should be the most important and interesting part of the yearly program and that report should be carefully preserved for future generations.

CHAPTER XXXI.

THE DEATH ROLL OF THE PIONEERS.

In an earlier chapter we have read of one of the first winters spent in Denison, how the young men clubbed together, and worked and played, and how in spite of cold and snow they were comparatively content, for were they not young and strong and hopeful, with life before them and the future an unopened book but peopled still with roseate dreams? But the snows of time are harder to defy than the snows of winter. The years moved on apace and with the opening of the Twentieth Century we find that the pioneers are growing old. They have fallen as the leaves of autumn until, to-day, there remain but few of those who bore the brunt of early settlement.

The death roll of the pioneers since 1900 is long and sad and the names recall the faces of many loved ones, of many who played important part in the history of our county and of many others who played humbler, but just as important parts, in happy homes. We give the list of the fallen pioneers, those who have died since 1900, as nearly as possible. It has been the effort to give them all, if some have been omitted it is unintentional and greatly regretted. Where possible the date of their coming to Crawford county is given in parenthesis, following the name.

THE DEAD OF 1900.

Ethan McKim (1861), Deloit; Rev. Wm. Wright (1876); Mrs. J. B. Romans; Esau McKim (1861), Deloit; John White, West Side; Danl. Nehls, J. F. Rudd, Dow City.

THE DEAD OF 1901.

John B. Huckstep, Deloit; J. F. Burk (1869), C. M. Staley, Mrs. J. Fred Meyers (1874), Jos. Brogden (1855), O. C. McAhren, Mrs. H. Stessie. Mrs. Henry Dohle (1871) Ethel Austin, Mrs. Margaret Tiernan, Dow City, Mrs. C. P. Frodig, Kiron, Mrs. Sophie Espholt, West Side, C. J. Bowling, Wm. Reimers, S. B. Greek, Edward Brogden (1855) N. A. Swanson, Kiron, Philip Giss, Emma Bell Kinnan, Mrs. Levina Seagrave (1857) A. Robertson, Dow City, A. F. French, Gottlieb Spiegel (1882) D. Tempest, Vail, Jeremiah Ryan, Vail, Mrs. Thos. Binnall (1862) Mrs. J. R. McFarland (1879) John Sievers, Sr., Mrs. C. R. Smith, Manilla, John F. Piper, David Hoff, Manilla, Mrs. C. Cody Vail, Levi Noll, Dow City, Mrs. L. B. Nixon, Mrs. Le Valley, Charter Oak.

THE DEAD OF 1902.

Patrick Henry, B. Aylesworth, Daniel Riddle (1854), George Heston (1868), M. Ainsworth, Mrs. Chas. Tabor (1873), S. Eastman, Hon. Hugh Langan, Martin Conroy (1863), E. R. Barber (1876), Henry Topf, M. C. Lawler, H. F. Pfankuch, Hy Lapel, John Thorpe.

THE DEAD OF 1903.

Mrs. D. F. McHenry, Bernard Lane, Thos. Griffin (1873), John Short, Vail (1873), Hy Revwswot, James Smyth (1865), John McCarthy (1876), Daniel McCarthy (1874), Peter Beermaker (1887), D. W. Shaw, J. P. Shuler, L. B. Lorenzen (1876), Capt. H. J. Lorentzen (1887), Hy Vanervere, Hy Nobles.

THE DEAD OF 1904.

J. N. Gunn, Jackson twp. (1880); Wm. Smith, Patrick Mahoney, Mrs. T. W. Harker (1870), Mrs. Isaac Gillmor, Mrs. W. A. Davie; T. C. Dobson, Deloit (1852); Wesley Cochran; Andrew Fellingham, West Side; Leroy Cadwell, Manilla; J. M. Campbell (1878), Mabel McAhren, T. W. Butler, Fred Luth, Leroy Cadwell.

THE DEAD OF 1905.

Ward Butterworth, Mrs. John Jones, Mrs. C. L. Nicholson, L. A. Sewell (1872), John Denahy (1886), D. O. Johnson (1874), Cyrus Sprecher, Mrs. Aug. Weickmann, Mrs. C. Stegemann, Mrs. B. P. Jurgensen, A. D. Rouilliard, Rev. J. B. Harris, T. J. Swan (1874), E. H. Wood (1880), Henry Eggers, Mrs. Susie Griffin, L. B. Nixon (1872); John Baber, Dow City; Mrs. P. Oxwang, P. M. Lynch, Vail; Mrs. Wm. Byrnes, Vail; Robert Molseed, Vail (1873); Thos. Leahy (1880), Wm. Glau, Henry Bendixen, J. H. Clough (1875), Gus Henning, Mrs. Mary Ainsworth (1868), Hans Kuhl, Henry Wiggins (1869), H. W. Gould (1880), Mrs. M. Hunt (1864); M. C. Wilson, East Boyer; F. J. Herre, West Side.

THE DEAD OF 1906.

Mrs. A. C. Lorenzen (1875); S. W. Slater, East Boyer; Jas. Sheridan (1885), F. J. Young (1871); G. S. Jordan, Milford (1881); A. B. Keith (1873), Mrs. H. G. Iseminger (1881), Fred Bugge, Mrs. W. J. Sriver, John McSorley, James Owens (1877); C. H. Woodard, Manilla; C. J. Salomon (1883), G. H. Bond; J. P. Petersen, East Boyer; Mrs. Vera McGrew, Dow City; Claus Grill, Goodrich; Frances L. Johnson, Deloit; Emil Kruger, Schleswig (1881); Geo. Ullrich, Charter Oak; Mrs. Henry Shirtcliff (1873), J. W. Wightman (1869), M. Brosnahan (1879), Mrs. L. Lorenzen, Prof. H. H. Savage; S. E. Dow, founder of Dow City (1855); John Segebart, Manilla; Mrs. L. L. Bond (1882), Mrs. S. E. Dow (1855); Mrs. E. Howorth, Goodrich; Frederick Petersen, Paradise; Mrs. J. A. Dieter, Vail (1883); Tracy Chapman, East Boyer (1852); Mrs. Herman Schultz.

THE DEAD OF 1907.

Erastus Thew, Buck Grove (1870); Mrs. W. E. Cole, Mrs. Wm. Familton (1872); W. H. Marshall (1871), Mrs. Orpha Joy King (1881), Hon. George Rae, Dow City (1865); Matthias Carstens, Aspinwall; Wm. Mundt (1870); Mrs. Thos. Carey, Iowa (1873); Mrs. Sarah Long, Vail; Mrs. J. T. Kevan (1872), Mrs. Sabina Gould (1872), Mrs. Walter Dillivan, Michael Kinney (1875), H. Norman, Sr., John O'Connor, Mrs. E. R. Snell, Carl Schelm, Mrs. P. Hillebrant; J. W. Bonsall, Dow City (1874); Harry Scaggs, Memorial Day (1871); Claus Frahm, James Magner, Sr. (1882); P. J. Breen, Vail; Mrs. S. L. Gable (1858), H. F. E. Evers (1883), Martin Neal (1863), John Torrey (1880), Thos O'Connor (1871), Gus Heuttmann, David Woodruff, Mrs. E. R. Barber (1876), Mrs. F. M. Potter (1882), Mrs. C. Otto, Sr. (1885), R. Trosene; Gustav Girard, Schleswig; Mrs. J. F. Harthun; Mrs. H. J. Hattery, Deloit; Geo. Peper, Iowa township; Mrs. Thos. White.

THE DEAD OF 1908.

Amos Weatherby, Dow City; D. J. Butler, Arion, first white child born in the county; R. C. Hawley (1860), W. W. Jackson (1868), Mrs. Prudence Clark, Lawrence Winans, M. Von Tuil (1875), Mrs. T. G. Hill; George E. Spottswood, West Side; C. H. De Wolf; T. G. Hill, aged ninety-one; S. Poitevin, Mrs. W. J. Cochran (1859), Mrs. W. W. Jackson (1870), E. M. Ainsworth, W. W. Coon (1867), A. J. Larson, Mrs. H. J. Cummings, Jackson Broadus, James Powers; B. White, Vail (1872); Rudolph Kolls, Mrs. Anna Berg (1879), O. J. Ainsworth, Mrs. Elizabeth Ayres, Henry Jaacks.

THE DEAD OF 1909.

Isaac Bixler (1881), Mrs. Jacob Fegtley (1875), Mrs. P. C. Roggendorf (1882), Hugh McWilliams (1859), Mrs. E. S. Plimpton (1858); M. B. Lewis, Dow City (1874); T. J. Phillips; M. E. Ryan, Vail (1875); Mrs. Hy. Bumann (1874), J. F. Wiley (1871), Isaac Gillmor (1869), J. P. Miller (1872); Mrs. Sarah K. Dobson, Deloit (1852); Mrs. Catharine Swan (1873), Wm. Hermann (1875); Dr. W. B. Evans, Arion (1877); James Maynard, M. King (1881), M. D. Wright (1873), Frank Meggers (1879), Mrs. A. Lenz (1882), Mrs. Wm. Bergstedt, H. H. Saggau (1876), Mrs. Cynthia Brown; Maj. G. W. Holmes, Charter Oak (1883); Mrs. Anna Mount (1863), Samuel Luney (1867), John Way (1872), Mrs. H. H. Lehfeldt (1870); Mrs. Pat'k Carey, Iowa township (1870); Edward Barden; J. W. Bayles, Manilla (1870); John R. Dorfler, Ricketts (1883); Mrs. Thos. Costello, Vail; C. P. Ely (1874); Harry G. Dobson, Deloit; Mrs. Patrick Behan; Jurgen Grill, Schleswig (1874); Wm. Nemitz, Charter Oak; Jas. Riddle, Dow City (1870); John Powers, Vail (1882); John Thies, West Side; John Gorman, Buck Grove; F. Boger, Buck Grove; Samuel Gibson, Dow City; Arnold Lee, Dow City; Mrs. Wm. Jepsen, Schleswig; Mrs. T. A. Hickey, Manilla; Wm. Kunze, Charter Oak; James Slattery, Buck Grove; W. J. Bauman (1880), James Cose (1870); Geo. Binnall, Dow City; C. Diersdorf, Schleswig; L. L. Servoss.

THE DEAD OF 1910.

Mrs. Jane Cavanaugh (1872), Mrs. P. Brinckmann (1882), Jerome Blackman (1870); Bert Whited, Buck Grove; Henry Rohwer, West Side (1873); Mrs. F. C. Buss, Dow City (1879); Mrs. H. Peper (1879); John Lochner, Vail (1878); Louis M. Baer (1881), Mrs. P. Grainger (1881), Mrs. Wm. Wright (1876), Mrs. W. W. Coon (1875), A. Herrig, J. H. Carstens; Mrs. B. B. Long, Vail; M. McMahon, Iowa township (1869); A. P. Hart, Charter Oak; E. J. Ballangee, Dow City (1870); Mrs. C. Giss (1880); Thos. Costello, East Boyer (1875); Mrs. Peter Clinton (1885); Henry Guth, Aspinwall (1890); Mrs. Edith Burk, Ainsworth (1876); Mrs. Luke Gaffey, Henry Vosgerau (1876); Mrs. G. W. Huntington, Dow City (1869); Hon. H. C. Laub (1855); Mrs. Jane Landon, Deloit (1865); Hon. J. B. Romans (1871), Aug. Odefy (1885), Mrs. M. Boger (1886), Mrs. B. Eastman (1887), Mrs. P. A. McCarthy (1867), Mrs. Frank Sherwood, Miss Frances Hart (1887), Mrs. Kate Davis Rollins (1886), Mrs. Carl Beerman.

THE DEAD OF 1911.

Mrs. M. Morgan (1869), Mrs. J. M. Campbell (1878); Chris Lantau, West Side; Mrs. A. Edans (1883), Hon. Morris McHenry (1856); Henry Walker, Manilla (1871); Julia C. Mulligan, Geo. H. C. Lass (1864), Mrs. Delphine Brannaka (1874), Mrs. C. Green (1864), Mrs. Dorothea Schroeder (1889), M. F. Christiansen (1880), Mrs. J. B. McClellan (1889); Mrs. And. Petersen, Buck Grove; Adolph Huebner (1883), Mrs. Lydia Marshall, Mrs. W. A. Ackley, Henry Kelly (1880), C. F. Heiden (1868), N. La Frantz (1869), Mrs. J. H. Lochmueller (1867), Mrs. Sarah Mahler (1878), Mrs. Hugh McWilliams (1862), B. F. Galland (1868), Mrs. H. A. Crandall (1861), George W. Nicholson (1880); Mrs. Hy. Petersen, Manilla (1889); Mrs. Jas. Walsh, Hayes (1883); Mrs. Lewis Romans, John Kelly (1869), A. M. Conyne, Mrs. Elizabeth Gunn (1881), George A. Richardson (1882), Leora Henry, Henry Maynard (1879), Mrs. Leon Vassar; L. P. Mooney, former sheriff; E. H. Smith (1872), Hy Macentum, P. Fineran (1881), Geo. Dodd (1876), Peter Meeves (1881); Otto Larson, Kiron (1871); Mrs. Chas. Lindberg, Kiron (1869); Ed Zea (1861); Mrs. Carrie Johnston, Kiron (1871); J. D. Christensen (1873), Geo. Servoss (1878); J. Saunders, Manilla; Mary A. Clinton, Harry Morris (1882), Mrs. Elizabeth Cook (1881), Mrs. Geo. Flint (1875); Jurgen Jabens, Schleswig; J. R. Brockelsby, Hayes (1874); Mrs. Otto Linstrom, Kiron; Mr. Staffanson, Kiron; Mrs. A. F. Johnston, Mrs. Wm. Gilbreath, Hon. H. C. Schroeder (1877), Mrs. I. Hird (1880), Wm. Koappen; J. D. Schmidt, West Side (1875); Mrs. H. S. Gulick (1872); Wm. Braddy, former city marshal; J. P. Duncan; D. C. Crandall, Dow City; Al Marshall.

This brings the list of our dead among those who had lived long in the county or who had been prominently identified with its history, down to August 20th, 1911, and it speaks more eloquently and more pathetically of the work the grim reaper is doing than could the most impassioned phrases. Long before another such a volume of Crawford county history is written the first pioneers will have passed away.

Three hundred and forty-seven names are recorded in the lists above, who among us will be the three hundred and forty-eighth will have been answered before this book reaches the hands of its readers, but, whoever it shall be, let us hope that the verdict may be "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," just as we know that it has been with the vast majority of the pioneers who have gone before.

CHAPTER XXXII.

A CHAPTER OF TRAGEDIES.

It is only by an examination of the actual records that one can realize the number of tragedies that have taken place in Crawford county. Prior to this century all the records are not available but since the year 1900 the complete files of the Denison newspapers afford a fairly accurate source of information.

Crawford is a law-abiding county; its people as a whole are happy, contented and prosperous; few of its people are engaged in hazardous pursuits. Nevertheless the newspaper files show that since January 1, 1900, six people have been murdered, eleven have been victims of self-destruction and more than sixty have met sudden and unexpected death through accidents. This is an appalling record for a space of but little more than ten years, a record which few would believe unless they saw the facts and the figures. To the credit of the county let it be said that but one murder was committed by an actual resident of the county, but on the other hand it must be recorded that but three of the guilty parties have been punished for their crime. Of those who died by their own hand, nine were men, but two women having committed this awful deed. Of these unfortunates let no more be said. They must answer to the Almighty, not to men, and the deep burden of grief borne by their relatives is heavy enough without having the names of their misguided loved ones thus preserved in a permanent record of the county.

Of the deaths by accident about fifty per cent were in connection with the operation of the railroads of the county. Another heavy toll to pay. A large number were occasioned by runaways and similar accidents with horses. Strange to say, until the recent accident at Kiron when a loaded automobile was run down by a train, there is no record of a single death either in an automobile accident or where a machine in any way occasioned the mishap.

The first murder in the county during this period, from 1900 to date, was that of J. H. Love, whose body was found by trainmen of the Milwaukee lying near the track west of Arion.

The skull was battered in by a blunt instrument and although considerable money was found on his person, the fact that he had displayed a still larger amount at Arion the day before led to the belief that robbery was the motive. From the actions of Mr. Love at Arion it was thought that he was a professional

gambler. He had been making his home in a "hoboe" camp. The inquest developed little information beyond that given. Suspicion was directed towards local parties but they were able to prove an alibi. Search was made for two negroes said to have been with Love shortly before his death, but no trace of them was found and no arrests were made for this crime. The date of this murder was August 16, 1901.

On July 20, 1902, Fred Powell, a brakeman on the Milwaukee, was killed near Arion, the crime occurring at almost the identical spot where the body of Love was found. The story of the crime was that Powell attempted to drive some tramps from his train, demanding either that they get off or pay. In the fracas which followed Powell was stabbed near the heart; he managed to make his way back to the way-car, where he soon died.

It was soon learned that a negro had boasted to one W. H. Pfeiffer that he had "marked" a "brakie" who had tried to put him off the train. After an exciting chase this negro was captured near Dow City and another negro who had been his companion was captured at Sioux City.

In the sweat box the first negro captured, who gave his name as Numley, practically confessed his guilt. His story was that a brakeman came along the train, firing a revolver and ordering all of the tramps either to leave the train or put up some money. That the brakeman demanded money of him and stepped on his hand as he was climbing up the side of the car and that thereupon he struck at the brakeman twice, with a knife. That the brakeman ran to the back of the train and that he (Numley) then left the train. He said he did not know the man was badly hurt until he overheard parties at Dow City talking about the man who had been killed by a negro, he then tried to make his escape. Numley was arraigned before Justice Wm. McLennan and was held under \$15,000 bond. This he could not give and he was confined in the county jail.

On the evening of September 8, 1902, Numley succeeded in effecting his escape in the following manner: Sheriff Henry Bell went at nine o'clock to lock the prisoners in their cells, they having been allowed in the general cell room during the supper hour. Entering the jail the sheriff neglected to lock the outer door behind him. The inner door opened hard and the sheriff put up both hands to force it open, suddenly it flew back and Numley, who had evidently been lying in wait, jumped on the sheriff, struck him repeatedly, forcing him to his knees and then ran out of the jail and into the darkness. Sheriff Bell recovered himself at once and started in pursuit, firing several ineffectual shots at the fleeing negro. Failing to stop him and being unable to outrun him the sheriff stopped the pursuit and organized a posse for his capture. A reward was offered and the country was thoroughly scoured but he was not recaptured.

On December 29, 1903, Detlef Evers, a farmer, living in Goodrich township, killed his eighteen months old child by administering carbolic acid to the helpless little one. It developed that Evers and his wife entered into a suicide pact by which the lives of the entire family were to be ended. The gruesome work was commenced by giving the fiery fluid to the baby and it died an agonized death. Both Mr. and Mrs. Evers partook of the poison but not in a sufficient quantity to end their lives. Evers was arrested, but the plea of insanity was made, he was taken before the insane commission and adjudged insane and

sent to the state asylum at Clarinda, from which he was afterwards released as cured. This was the only punishment meted out for this crime.

On January 6, 1907, occurred the murder of Fred Nawfl, a Syrian peddler. The body was found in a pasture in Goodrich township, a few miles northwest of Denison. There were bullet wounds and the skull had been battered by a blunt instrument. There were wagon tracks, and articles belonging to a peddler's stock were found. The morning following the murder Nawfl's horse and wagon were found on the Illinois Central tracks. Circumstantial evidence led to the arrest of two cousins of the murdered man, Joseph and Solomon Hassan. Joseph Hassan attended the inquest as a voluntary witness and interested friend of the dead man. It was not until after the inquest that evidence developed which led to his arrest. Joseph was first held as a witness and later Solomon was captured near Sac City and confined in the county jail. A preliminary hearing was given them before Justice W. C. Rollins and they were bound over to await the action of the grand jury. Owing to recent changes in the law there was some question as to legality of the grand jury as drawn and a second indictment was found by a new jury. It was not until September 16th that the actual trial of the case commenced and it was not until October 12th that the trial was completed and the jury returned its verdict, finding Joseph and Solomon guilty of murder in the second degree. This was the most interesting, sensational and hardest fought criminal case in the records of the county. The court room was thronged with spectators throughout the entire four weeks of the trial and the whole county followed the case with the greatest interest. Motion for a new trial was filed and overruled and it was not until January 29, 1908, that sentence was passed, condemning the Hassans to twenty-five years each in the penitentiary. The case was appealed, but the Supreme court affirmed the decision of the lower court. Judge F. M. Powers presided at this trial. The jurors were Thomas Lang, G. T. Childress, F. A. Brown, Sidney Jobe, R. G. Theobald, W. R. Rogers, Josiah Inghram, S. C. Dunham, H. Beardsley, Fred Heiden, A. J. Randall and E. H. Smith. The case was prosecuted by County Attorney P. J. Klinker and Mr. Jacob Sims, while the defense was conducted by the firm of Conner & Lally.

On the night of June 19, 1909 occurred the murder of Lee C. Warner and Alva C. Brechtel, both brakemen on the Northwestern railway. The scene of the murder was a moving train passing through the yards of Vail at about midnight. The details of the crime were almost identical with those of the killing of brakeman Powell at Arion, in 1902.

These brakemen attempted to put a number of tramps off their train. A fight is said to have followed on a tank car, when shots were fired from the top of a box car just in the rear. Warner was killed outright and Brechtel was so badly wounded that he died in the hospital at Carroll a few days later. The conductor, Mr. W. M. McCarthy, found the two men lying in the tank car. He stopped the train at West Side and notified Sheriff Cummings at Denison. The sheriff was on the spot within two hours. Evidence showed that the crimes had been committed by negroes and by ten o'clock at least ten negroes were under arrest at different points along the line. The right men were captured at Manilla on Sunday forenoon and were immediately brought to Denison. They gave their

names as Hubbard and Clark. At the preliminary hearing Clark made a confession, but claimed self-defense. He stated that the brakemen were about to throw Hubbard from the moving train, that he felt that his turn would come next and that he shot to protect both Hubbard and himself. He also told of their overland night journey to Manilla and their arrest by the marshal of that city. The confession completely exonerated Hubbard save as an accessory after the fact. On Sunday, August 8th, Hubbard and Clark also made a desperate attempt to escape. When the sheriff went to lock the prisoners in for the night, Hubbard seized him from behind, while Clark attacked him from the front. Hubbard failed to hold the sheriff's arms and after some fierce fighting, Mr. Cummings succeeded in breaking away from the two men and locked them in their cells. Soon after Clark attempted suicide by hanging, making use of a towel provided for the prisoners. He was almost successful but the guards heard him strangling and he was cut down before life was extinct. Clark pleaded guilty to murder and was sentenced to the penitentiary for life while Hubbard was given ten years for his share in the crime and in the attempted escape. This completes the history of the murders committed in Crawford county since 1900.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS.

Our chapter of accidents which have occurred since the beginning of the new century opens with the tragic death of Mrs. J. B. Romans, on July 5, 1900. Mrs. Romans was one of the most prominent women of Denison. Her death was caused by burning, her clothes having caught fire from burning gasoline. In October of the same year J. F. Rudd, a pioneer trapper of Dow City, came to his death by drowning in the Boyer river and Will Vennick, a young man of Vail, was killed by a fall from a windmill tower.

In 1901 the first accidental death was that of Mrs. H. Stiisi, wife of a bridge foreman, living in East Denison, who was killed by burning gasoline. The accident being similar to that which resulted in the death of Mrs. Romans. In June, Thomas Luney, son of W. D. Luney, was killed at the railway crossing near the Luney mill, being run down by a train. And in March occurred the awful tragedy in which Henry Warn, crazed by financial difficulties, set fire to all his belongings on his farm northwest of Denison. His house, his barn, his horses, his cattle, his hogs, his faithful dog, which he had chained in the barn purposely, and the demented man himself were all consumed in this fearful holocaust.

In April, 1901, Gale McBride, a charming little girl was playing on the roof of a shed at her father's place in Washington township. She slid off the roof and her muffler caught on a shingle nail and she was strangled to death before help arrived. Just one week later the little three year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Thiesen fell into a pail of boiling water and was scalded to death. In July Doranus Henning, a two year old tot toddled away from his home west of Charter Oak and got on the railroad track. The engineer and firemen of a fast freight saw the child, but too late to stop the heavy train. The fireman ran out on the fender and grabbed for the child but just then it fell and its head was cut off by the wheels. In August Clifford Kelly, whose home was found to be at Des Moines, went to sleep on the track west of Vail and was literally ground to pieces by the Northwestern flyer. During the same month Olof Larson, section foreman at Deloit was killed by the cars. With his men he was on a hand-car when they saw the train coming. All the men jumped to safety but Larson went back to try to save the hand car, the crash came quicker than he thought and he was killed.

January 12, 1902, Patrick Henry was run down by a train while in the performance of his duty, inspecting the tracks of the Illinois Central near Arion. The same month Henry Topf was killed at Charter Oak, by being crushed in a horsepower feed grinder.

In February two Crawford county farmers, M. C. Lawler and H. F. Pfankuch were killed in a railroad accident on the Illinois Central railroad, just east of Dubuque while on their way to Chicago with stock. Dan'l Lawler, T. F. Jordan and J. J. Moorehead were also severely injured in this accident.

On June 23d, Martin Conroy, one of the pioneers of the county and a mail driver in the early days before the railroads, was thrown from his wagon when driving home from Dow City and died from his injuries.

In July John Thorpe, section man at Manilla, slipped from a coal bank and was killed by a passing engine.

On January 28, 1903, there occurred a wreck on the Northwestern near Chicago in which Bernard Lane of Vail was killed and A. P. Lyman of Boyer township and Wm. Jochims and Evers Nielsen of Schleswig were severely injured. These men were going into Chicago with stock and were asleep in the way-car when their train was run into by an engine. The way-car caught fire and Lane and C. K. Coe of Woodbine met a fearful death, being pinioned beneath the wreckage and burned. In July Johnny Clark came to his death by drowning in the Boyer river just below the Luney mill dam. He was bathing, could not swim, got beyond his depth and was drowned. Arthur Cushman, who was with him, made strenuous but unsuccessful efforts to save his life.

In June, 1904, Wesley Cochran was struck and killed by the Fast Mail on the Northwestern just as he was crossing the railroad bridge west of the station. In August Leroy Cadwell, a popular young farmer residing near Manilla was killed by a stroke of lightning while going to town with a load of grain. In December, Thos. Butler, an aged resident of Vail, returned from a visit in Nebraska. The fast train on which he came stopped at Denison but not at Vail. He left the train at Denison therefore and started to walk to his home. A blizzard was raging and he lost his way. The next morning his frozen body was found by Dan Scanlan, Jr.

In January of 1905 Ward Butterworth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clair Butterworth, of Dow City, was killed by the accidental discharge of a rifle held in his own hands. The boys were out rabbit hunting and Butterworth climbed a tree as a point of vantage from which to shoot. His companion handed him the gun and as he drew it towards him it was accidentally discharged.

In August Paul De May attacked his wife with an ax, inflicting severe wounds upon the head from which it was feared she would die. He ran from the house after committing the crime. A thorough search was made for the supposed murderer and his body was finally found hanging to a tree in a small grove near the house. Mrs. De May fortunately recovered.

In September William Glau, a young farm hand, was shot as the result of his own carelessness in handling a gun. The wound was in the shoulder and the young man bled to death before medical help could be obtained.

On the evening of October 17th, Gus Herring started to drive from Denison to the farm of Franz Heppner, north of town. The night was dark and Herring

drove a horse which was blind. In some way he lost the road and fell off an embankment just north of Denison. Herring fell in such a manner that his neck was broken. The body was discovered by Leslie Gulick, the following morning. In November Hans Kuhl, of Willow township, died after suffering from all the agonies of hydrophobia, which came as the result of a bite by a mad dog some time before.

In May, 1906, John McSorley, a respected farmer near Manilla, was found dead in his field. The cause of his death is not certainly known but was supposed to have been caused by overheating. On the 27th of the same month C. H. Woodard was killed while engaged in moving a house at Manilla. A rope broke and the house commenced sliding down hill. Mr. Woodard attempted to put a block under one of the trucks, but the house slipped from the trucks pinioning him to the ground and killing him instantly. In August George Ullrich, of Charter Oak, fell from a grain stack. He struck the up-pointed tines of a pitchfork and died as a result of his injuries. In October Mrs. Lorenz Lorenzen, living south of Manilla, was killed in a runaway accident, the horses becoming frightened at some coats hung on a fence by the roadside. In November John Segebart, an Iowa township farmer, was killed while crossing the Milwaukee track near Aspinwall. He failed to notice the approaching train and he was thrown some distance when the engine struck his wagon.

The first accident in 1907 was the death of an unknown man killed by the cars in the Northwestern yards at Denison. In March Halver Norman, Sr., one of the pioneer Swede settlers of the county, was killed by a Northwestern train while he was walking on the track within the yard limits of Denison.

In April five Austrian laborers were killed by the Illinois Central train No. 5 when it dashed into their hand car near the station of Ells. These men were working with a surfacing gang; as it was rainy, they took a hand car, without permission, and went to Boyer to buy a keg of beer. It was on their return to the camp that the fast train swung around a curve and caught them just as they were crossing a small bridge. All the men on the hand car were killed.

In June Claus Frahm was killed near Boyer while working with a section gang on the Northwestern. He was lifting rails when a jack slipped, striking him on the point of the jaw and breaking his neck.

In October the fifteen months old baby girl of Mr. and Mrs. John Perowitz of Charter Oak was burned to death in a fire which destroyed their home. The father made desperate but vain attempts to rescue the babe. The fire started in some unknown way while the father and mother were at work in the barn, leaving the two little ones in the house, the older child ran from the building and gave the alarm, but the baby had crept to another part of the room and could not be found when the father rushed into the blazing house to save her.

The early months of 1908 were singularly free from fatal accidents, but on September 7th occurred an accident which took from our county that splendid wife and mother Mrs. H. J. Cummings. Mrs. Cummings was hastening to take a train at Arion, evidently thinking that an oncoming train was on the Northwestern instead of the Illinois Central track she stepped directly in front of the swiftly moving train and was instantly killed.

On Christmas Day, Mr. Henry Jaacks, a well known retired farmer living in Denison, went to his old farm to visit his son. He went to look over the place, and started to repair a windmill which appeared to him to be out of order, when the planking over the well broke with his weight and he fell into the water and was drowned. In May of 1909 Chris Diersdorf, a farmer in the vicinity of Charter Oak, drove home with a load of lumber, at a sliding place in the road the lumber slipped and fell on him, crushing him to death.

On June 17th, L. L. Servoss, a well known Denison youth and an expert mason, was killed when the scaffolding broke with him while he was at work on the new Catholic church at Mapleton. In July F. Boger, a prominent farmer, was killed in a runaway accident at Buck Grove. In the month following, Arnold Lee of Dow City, was killed by falling from a wagon in such a way that his neck was broken.

Harry Dobson, a young man of Deloit, was killed when the balance wheel of an engine attached to a sawmill burst, the pieces striking him, breaking his bones in a number of places, so that he died in a short time. Just a few days later, November 3d, Mr. John Smith, a Milwaukee engineer, was killed in the cab of his locomotive when the driving rod broke and threshed wildly about. This accident occurred between Charter Oak and Ute. On December 18th William Kunze was killed at a railroad crossing near Charter Oak, being run down by the second section of a passenger train. His wife was also thrown from the wagon but escaped with minor injuries.

In February, 1910, Robert Whited and his son Bert drove out of Buck Grove with a load of lumber. The team ran away, overturning the wagon and the son was killed by a timber which fell on his head. Mr. Whited was also severely injured.

On April 16th, B. F. Kradwell, of Racine, Wis., was found dead lying near the Northwestern track, between Denison and Vail. He had been a passenger on a west bound train the night before and it is not known whether he deliberately stepped off the train or accidentally fell from the platform of the observation car.

In June of 1910 Mrs. Frank Sherwood, a bride of three days, was killed at Arion at the same place and in almost the identical manner in which Mrs. H. J. Cummings was killed the year before. This is a dangerous and confusing crossing, but so far, no steps have been taken to make it safer.

During the latter part of May the ten year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Austin Gibbons, of Vail, was killed when his horse slipped and fell on him, and in August, Ruth Crakes, a three-year-old, was burned to death at Manilla. She went up stairs, got to playing with matches and set her clothing on fire. Just a month later, September 15th, the sixteen months old babe of Mr. and Mrs. John Reimer, living near Kenwood, was killed by falling into a twenty gallon crock which was partially filled with water.

On November 12, 1910, two fatal accidents occurred. Mr. John Powers, of Vail, driving through a storm with a blind horse, drove into a fence, overturning his buggy. He was injured and lay unconscious through the night, dying the next day. John Thies, of West Side, lost his life in a runaway accident the same day.

In January, 1911, Chris Lantau was killed at a railroad crossing near West Side.

On April 14th, Denison was greatly shocked and grieved over the death of one of her fairest and most capable daughters, Miss Leora Henry. She presided over her school in East Boyer township and on Friday afternoon walked to Denison to spend the week-end at her home. Coming down the right of way of the Northwestern she stepped aside to avoid an oncoming train and stepped directly in the path of a train coming behind her. She died within a short time after being taken to her home. We have already in this chapter noted the death of her father, Patrick Henry, in January, 1902, in a similar accident.

During the early morning hours of July 20th, fire was discovered in the new hotel owned by Mrs. S. Dawes, of Denison. The flames spread so rapidly that but little could be done to save the building or contents. There were several people sleeping in the hotel, all of whom escaped except Arthur Wilson, a nephew of Mrs. Dawes, who, with his brother had but recently come to this country from England. The brother tried to arouse the unfortunate young man but failed to do so and in the morning his charred remains were found.

On July 27th, Louis Pranschke, a young lad living west of Denison, was killed when his horse fell on him and on the first day of August, Wm. Koeppen was killed when a threshing machine fell through a bridge in Goodrich township.

The last of these many tragedies occurred on August 10th, near Kiron, when Mr. A. F. Johnston, his wife and two daughters were killed when a Northwestern train struck their automobile at the railroad crossing. This is the only fatal accident in the county in which an automobile has figured in any way.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE GEOLOGY OF CRAWFORD COUNTY.

By James H. Lees, Assistant State Geologist.

If we would understand the geological history of Crawford County we must take a survey of a wider field and see what the history of our state has been, for only so can we learn the course of events in our more limited area. The accompanying sketch of the succession of strata in Iowa will serve to make clear the changes through which our state has passed. It will be seen that there have been deposits of sandstone, limestone and dolomite, which is a magnesian limestone, and beds of shale. These were all laid down on a sea bottom and indicate changing conditions very similar to those which are today in existence in the shallow off-shore waters of our oceans. In some cases after these beds had been formed they were raised above the ocean's surface and this new land was worn and eroded by streams and rains and atmosphere, exactly as the surface of Crawford County is being worn and cut up today. Then the ocean again overspread the land and new beds of sand or mud or limy ooze were formed and gradually hardened to sandstone or shale or limestone. In this way the rock succession has been built up and we can read in the rocks the history of uncounted centuries.

Far back in the dim ages the Algonkian ocean covered Iowa and on its floor a great body of sandstone was laid down and later was hardened to the Sioux quartzite, often but incorrectly called Sioux Falls granite. This is the basement upon which all the later rocks of Iowa and Crawford County rest and while it has not been reached in Crawford we are sure of its existence from its having been found at numerous other places in western Iowa. After the ocean had retreated from our area and the Sioux quartzite had been attacked for years and centuries and milleniums by the weathering agencies of air and water it again sank beneath the sea and was covered by great beds of sand now known as the Saint Croix, Iowa's chief water-bearing horizon. The ocean floor sank still more and beds of limestone were formed. It rose a little and again sandstones were laid down, as shown in the geological section. The lowest of these

beds which has been penetrated near to Crawford County is the Saint Peter sandstone, from which the Dunlap well draws its supplies of water.

We do not know very clearly the succeeding history of our county through the long periods of geological time which followed except that it was without doubt now under water and now above it and was subjected to the conditions outlined at the opening of this chapter. The rock systems given in the chart as Ordovician, Silurian and Devonian are probably represented by their appropriate strata as shown in the Dunlap well and at least some of the rocks of the Carboniferous system are present, as for example the limestones of the Mississippian, showing that during this time still waters, far from shore, covered our county. The formation called the Des Moines is the productive coal horizon of the Des Moines valley, while its successor, the Missouri, also carried one or two thin seams of coal. While these formations are perhaps present beneath the surface of Crawford it is doubtful if they carry coal beds of any value. Certainly none have been found so far. The beds of the Des Moines stage tell of a time when the land lay near the sea level and great swamps supported a luxuriant vegetation. Slight changes of level carried these swamps below the sea and they were covered by beds of mud or sand and the vegetation was through long ages converted into stores of coal. As the land slowly rose and sank alternating beds of coal and shale or sandstone formed as we see today in our coal mines. Similar conditions prevailed in Missouri time except that there was less coal and more limestone formed.

Again the sea receded and through long ages the land was subjected to erosion. Hills and valleys were carved out of the surface, and streams coursed their way across the country. Then the cretaceous sea invaded western Iowa and its sandstones and limestones and chinks were spread over the sea bottom. Crawford county received its share of these beds and these now are the first solid rocks reached after the loose clays are penetrated. It is many centuries, indeed millions of years, since the cretaceous ocean retreated from Crawford county, but never since that time has the sea overspread her surface. Through all the changing years, with two short exceptions to be noted later, summer sun and winter wind have played their part in modeling her prairies, her rivers have chiseled deep valleys and all the processes of land sculpture which nature employs have been busily at work.

For a long time after the cretaceous sea left Iowa the climate was warm and equable. We have no traces of the life forms of the state during this time, although we know that in other parts of the continent they were gradually approaching those types with which we are familiar today. But in the course of time there came a change in conditions. For some reason the climate of North America, and indeed of Europe also, grew colder and colder. Vast snow fields accumulated in Canada and from several centers great ice sheets crept southward and covered the northern United States with a frigid mantle. The Mississippi valley was overwhelmed and our local territory suffered the same fate as did the rest of Iowa. This was the Nebraskan glacier of the Pleistocene epoch. How long ago it was that this glacier came down or how long it stayed are questions which we cannot answer. Certainly the answer to the first question must be given in hundreds of thousands and possibly millions of years,










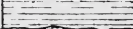

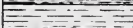






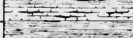











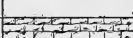
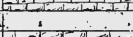


SYSTEM	SERIES	FORMATION NAME	COLUMNAR SECTION	THICKNESS IN FEET	CHARACTER OF ROCKS
QUATERNARY	PLEISTOCENE	Wisconsin		0-30 +	BOWLDER CLAY, PALE YELLOW VERY CALCAREOUS
		Peorian			SOIL BAND
		Iowan		0-30	BOWLDER CLAY, YELLOW, WITH VERY LARGE BOWLDER
		Sangamon			SOIL, PEAT AND FOREST BEDS
		Illinoian		0-100 +	BOWLDER CLAY, YELLOW
		Yarmouth			SOIL, PEAT AND FOREST BEDS
		Kansan		0-400 +	BOWLDER CLAY, BLUE, JOINTED, WITH INTERCALATED STREAKS AND POCKETS OF SAND AND GRAVEL
		Aftonian		0-40 +	PEAT AND FOREST BEDS, SOIL BANDS, ABUNDANT GRAVELS
CRETACEOUS	UPPER CRETACEOUS	Nebraskan		0-30 +	BOWLDER CLAYS, DARK FRIABLE
		Colorado		150	SHALES WITH SOFT LIMESTONES, IN PLACES CHALKY
PERMIAN		Dakota		100	SANDSTONES
		Fort Dodge		20	RED SHALES AND SANDSTONES
CARBONIFEROUS	PENNSYLVANIAN	Missouri		20	GYP SUM
		Des Moines		600	SHALES AND LIMESTONES
	MISSISSIPPIAN	St Louis		750	SHALES AND SANDSTONES WITH SOME BEDS OF LIMESTONE
		Osage or Augusta		100	LIMESTONE, SANDSTONE & MARLY SHALES
		Kinderhook		265	LARGELY CRINOIDAL LIMESTONE, WITH HEAVY BANDS OF CHERT, SOME SHALE
DEVONIAN	UPPER DEVONIAN	State Quarry Lime Creek Sweetland Creek		120	SHALE SANDSTONE AND LIMESTONE LIMESTONE IN PLACES DOLITIC
		Cedar Valley		(40) (120) (20)	LIMESTONE, MOSTLY BRACHIOPOD COQUINA MOSTLY SHALES SHALE
	MIDDLE DEVONIAN	Wapsipinicon		100	LIMESTONES, SHALES AND SHALY LIMESTONES
SILURIAN	NIAGARAN	Gower		60-75	LIMESTONES, SHALES AND SHALY LIMESTONES
		Hopkinton		120	DOLomite, NOT VERY FOSSILIFEROUS, LE CLAIRE PHASE EXTENSIVELY CROSS-BEDDED
ORDOVICIAN	CINCINNATIAN	Maquoketa		220	DOLomite, VERY FOSSILIFEROUS IN PLACES
	MOHAWKIAN	Galena		200	SHALE, SHALY LIMESTONES, AND, LOCALLY, BEDS OF DOLomite
		Platteville		340	DOLomite IN PLACES, IN PLACES UNALTERED LIMESTONES
	CANADIAN	St. Peter		90	MARLY SHALES AND LIMESTONES
		Prairie du Chien		100	SANDSTONE
CAMBRIAN	POTSDAMIAN OR SPARTOGAN	Shakopee		80	DOLomite
		New Richmond		20	DOLomite
		Oneota		150	SANDSTONE
		Jordan		100	COARSE SANDSTONE
ALGONKIAN	HURONIAN	St Croix		50	DOLomite MORE OR LESS ARENACEOUS.
		Dresbach		150	SANDSTONE, WITH BANDS OF GLAUCONITE
		Sioux Quartzite		25	QUARTZITE

Plate I—Geological section of Iowa, by Samuel Calvin

while our knowledge of modern glaciers teaches us that this old-time ice sheet must have covered Crawford county for many, many years. But finally the climate again moderated, the ice was melted away and Crawford county again basked in the warm summer sun. But what a change its surface had undergone! The river valleys were filled up and the hilltops were planed down. Where there had been a pleasing diversity of rolling prairie there was now spread out a monotonous plain, a plain very similar to that now seen in several of the counties to the northeast, as for example Pocahontas or Kossuth. Let us see how these changes were brought about. As the glacier passed over the surface of the land, it plowed up the loose material in its path and incorporated it into its own mass or shoved it along at its base. Much of this loose material, stones, clay, sand, and all the products of ages of rock weathering, was ground up and mixed into a heterogeneous boulder clay. Some of it was carried off in the streams which issued from the glacier's edge. When the glacier at last retreated through the melting back of its front all its contents of clay and boulders and what not were left spread out as a mantle of drift or glacial till covering the surface once occupied by the ice. This tended to fill up the valleys and so make the surface more uniform, and added to the planing and cutting effected by the ice, succeeded in reducing what must have been a diversified topography to a flat even plain.

Once more the rivers began to run in their courses to the sea and to cut their valleys into the beds of drift. Vegetation spread over prairie and valley. Forests grew where only vast stretches of ice had been, and Crawford county assumed an appearance very similar to that of today. This period of warm climate and pleasant conditions is known as the Aftonian interglacial age. We have evidence of the conditions which prevailed in the buried peat beds which have been found in various parts of the state, in soil bands and other vegetal remains and also in the remarkable fossil remains which have been discovered in Crawford and other counties of western Iowa, as well as elsewhere. It seems that for some reason the Aftonian was a period of great floods and these floods brought down immense quantities of sand and gravel. These were deposited in the stream valleys, many of which they seem to have nearly or entirely filled. Subsequent stream work has cut away much of this material and carried it farther along toward the ocean, but much still remains to testify of former conditions. These remnants occur as terraces or banks along the valley walls and serve today as almost inexhaustible supplies of sand and gravel for various economic purposes. Such are the beds opposite Denison and those underlying Deloit as well as the large bank which has been opened just south of the village.

The animals of those days roamed over the prairies and through the forests of Crawford county. They died and their bones were scattered about or washed into the streams and buried in their silts and sands. Oftentimes when they came down to drink they became mired and perished, to be exhumed and become objects of wonder to their human successors generations later. Many of these early settlers would be much like our modern fauna. The wolf no doubt made life as miserable for his neighbors as he has within the memory of man. Whether the bison lived in this particular age may not be certain, al-

though it is certain that he lived in Iowa in abundance in later days. The bear and the deer were present as has been recently shown from the discovery of a bear's tooth near Missouri Valley and of a stag's antler in the gravels at Denison. A portion of the latter is shown in one of the accompanying illustrations and a comparison with the six-inch ruler will give some idea of the great size of the complete antler and of the lordly beast which carried it. Horses were abundant in Aftonian days and have left many traces of their presence in the shape of bones and teeth, numbers of which have been found in the gravel beds of western Iowa. It is a strange fact that while horses were abundant at the time we are discussing, they had entirely disappeared from the American continent at the time of its discovery. The herds of wild horses which inhabited our western prairies during the last century were descended from ancestors brought over by the Spanish conquerors. Camels were here and their bones are found mingled with those of the other denizens of the prairies in these natural graveyards—the Aftonian gravels. Probably the strangest and most remarkable members of the animal kingdom of Iowa were the sloths, great slow-going, sleepy animals whose distant relatives today hang by their toes from the trees of the forests of the Amazon in South America. Not many of their remains have been found in Iowa, some claws and similar parts, but enough, certainly, to let us know that they lived here and probably paid Crawford county an occasional visit, at least.

But among all the strange inhabitants of our territory the largest and most imposing were the elephants and mastodons. What a spectacle would have presented itself to the eyes of the beholder if he could have been set down let us say, in the Boyer valley at Denison. On one hand he might have seen a herd of majestic elephants, led perhaps by the giant whose sixth molar is here represented in Plate III, from the Mill gravel pit at Denison. This is one of the largest teeth of this species which has ever been found. The grinding surface measures ten and one-half inches in length by four and one-half inches in width. This was the hairy elephant often called also the northern mammoth and it must have been relatively quite abundant as the teeth as well as other hard parts are rather common in the gravels.

Besides the northern mammoth our visitor to Crawford county might have discovered the southern mammoth and perhaps the monarch of them all, the imperial mammoth, would have been here also, since both of these species lived in our territory. The relative sizes of the teeth of these monsters are shown in Plate IV. The tooth shown in number one was also found at Denison. Fragments of the tusks of these elephants have also been found in the Denison pits and some are reproduced in Plate V.

Looking now across the valley, we may easily imagine that our imaginary visitor would see feeding on the luxuriant growth of grass a troop of horses, very similar to those of today, except that perhaps they were slightly smaller, with heads somewhat larger in proportion. Peeping from the timber fringing the stream might be the giant deer whose antler has been already mentioned, together with his gentle consorts and their graceful fawns; and stalking along the drier uplands he may have beheld an ungainly camel or two outlined against



Plate II—Part of antler of great stag, *Cervalces*, from gravels at Denison

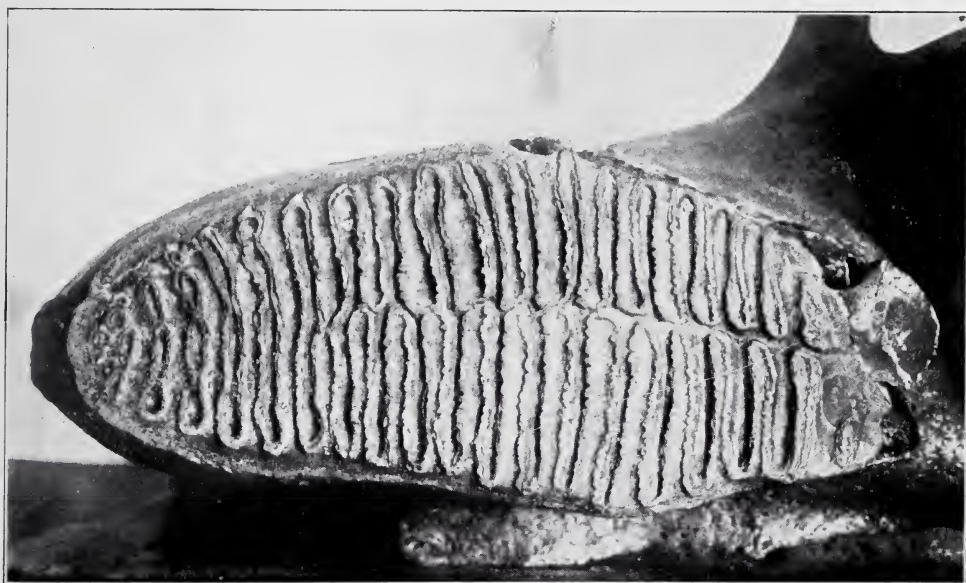


Plate III—View of the grinding surface of the sixth upper right molar of the mammoth or hairy elephant, *Elephas primigenius*, found in sandpit near Denison by James Mill. The grinding surface is ten and one-half inches long and four and one-half inches wide

Photos by S. Calvin

the sky. All this would seem strange to our eyes, but less so to those of the men who roamed over the world in the days when history had not yet begun to be written. But the commoner and smaller forms of life were by no means absent. Here the gopher sits on his earth mound and whistles in derision as a hawk swoops down to capture him. There, perchance, a rabbit scuds away before a pursuing wolf or fox. And so we might go on with the multitude of animals which make up our Crawford county fauna.

But we must not omit mention of another creature which, although no remains have as yet been identified in our area, there is no reason to question was at some time one of the early inhabitants. This is the mastodon, a gigantic elephant-like creature a lower jaw of which is shown in Plate VI. When it is noted that this jaw is thirty-two inches long, some conception of the size of the creature will be gained. A comparison of the teeth shown in Plates III and IV, with that in the jaw here figured, shows the difference in the dentition of the elephant and the mastodon. The elephant tooth has a flat grinding surface roughened by two series of transverse ridges, while that of the mastodon bears a number of blunt bosses or knobs for crushing food. Note also that both of these animals carry only one developed tooth in each half jaw, or four for the entire mouth, at any one time. As these are worn down they are replaced by others which push outward and displace the old ones. When the series of six for each half jaw has grown out, the animal must perforce suffer the consequences of a toothless old age.

The cavities at the point of the lower jaw of the mastodon for the reception of tusks are worth notice since they show that this animal was armed with two pairs of these formidable weapons, one in the upper jaw and one in the lower.

It was said above that there were two periods since the retreat of the cretaceous sea when the territory of Crawford county was shut away from sun and wind. One of these two periods was the Nebraskan age, when unknown thicknesses of ice lay over the land as previously described. The second period is known to geology as the Kansan age, a similar period, when again Crawford and Iowa and the whole upper Mississippi valley were covered by ice. The Aftonian age lasted for a long time, just how long we have no means of knowing. But by and by there came a recurrence of those climatic conditions which had led to the formation of the ice sheets of the Nebraskan and once more the climate grew colder, the summers shorter and the winters longer, until finally there was no cessation of the cold, the snow piled up from year to year, it congealed to form solid ice and again the ice sheets came down from the frozen north and covered our area with a great white mantle. The glacier did not cease its onward march until it had reached Missouri river, where it crosses the state of the same name. All animal life was driven southward or exterminated, the vegetation was overwhelmed and absolute desolation ruled where once there had been fullness of life.

But in course of time the long, dreary winter came gradually to a close and springtime dawned. The ice could not resist the warming sun rays and it was slowly melted away. Once more the earth resumed her wonted appearance.

While the old-time valleys had been filled up by the drift from the Kansan glacier and the surface of Crawford county was again level and smooth it was not long before the little rills began to cut their valleys and the larger streams set to work to carve out again the hills and hollows which give diversity to our beautiful Iowa landscapes.

Since the Kansan ice left Crawford county there have been three invasions of Iowa by continental glaciers, namely the Illinoian, the Iowan and the Wisconsin. Each of these periods of cold has been succeeded by a period of warmer climate, the Yarmouth following the Kansan, the Sangamon after the close of the Illinoian, the Peorian succeeding the Iowan and the Present age since the Wisconsin glacier was melted away. These are all shown on the chart in Plate I. But none of the glaciers was able to extend as far as our county and hence while it was subjected to great periodic variations of climate, the agencies of erosion have held continual sway ever since the close of Kansan times, subject of course to modifications attendant upon climatic changes.

North-central Iowa between Clear Lake, Des Moines and Storm Lake represents that portion of our state once covered by the Wisconsin ice. If this area be compared with that to the southwest, of which Crawford county is typical, it will be seen how much farther advanced is erosion in this older, Kansan region. It has been estimated from studies of the different drift sheets that if the time since the retreat of the Wisconsin ice sheet be considered as unity, the length of time since the close of the Kansan invasion must be reckoned at from fifteen to seventeen. It will be easy to see from this comparison how much longer the streams and atmospheric agencies of erosion have had to work on the region of the Kansan drift than on the Wisconsin area and to understand why the topography of the former area is so much more mature than is that of the latter region. A study of the map of Iowa will show the facts in the case and we have here the explanation of what may seem at first a very anomalous situation.

Overlying the Kansan drift of Crawford county is a fine yellow or bluish gray silt known by the German word loess. This belongs to several ages of Pleistocene time, the lower, blue-gray part to the time immediately following the Kansan age and the upper yellow loess to the interglacial ages following the later ice invasions as well as to the time following the Wisconsin, the last glacial age. In many cases these two varieties are found together. In other places only one may be seen. The origin of the loess may be explained by referring to present day conditions along the Missouri bottoms. Here clouds of dust are raised from the sand-bars and silt banks and are carried inland to be deposited on the prairies and hilltops. In this way the Missouri bluffs have been built up and vast quantities of this dust-like loess have been spread over adjacent territory. It is only necessary to transfer these conditions to the various interglacial ages to understand how these beds of loess have been formed. In some parts of Iowa the different varieties of loess are separated by drift sheets, but in Crawford county, since there are none of the later sheets, the loesses lie in contact. They are the representatives of the different interglacial ages and in a less direct way of the glacial ages also. One of the best ex-



Photo by S. Calvin

Plate IV—Side view of teeth of fossil elephants that once inhabited Iowa. A little more than one-fourth its natural size

1—Fourth molar of the hairy, or northern mammoth, *Elephas primigenius*, from Denison, Iowa

2—Fourth molar of the southern mammoth, *Elephas columbi*, from Logan, Iowa

3—Fifth molar of the imperial mammoth, *Elephas imperator*, from Pisgah, Iowa

There is no doubt that all three lived in what is now Crawford County

posures in the county is seen in the pit of the Denison Brick Works, where both loesses may be seen distinctly marked off from each other.

Naturally the loess is thicker in the western part of the county, where the post-Wisconsin phase has been piled up in billowy hills and ridges. The typical loess topography is best developed as the great river is approached and here the topography is constructional rather than erosional; that is, deposition of loess has been in excess of cutting by streams and other forces. Western Crawford is transitional between the two types.

Of all geologic time the Pleistocene epoch is to most Iowans of the greatest immediate interest, for it is because of the sheets of till and loess spread over the surface of the state that Iowa's farms have attained their supremacy. This heterogeneous mixture of rock flour, clay and other ingredients, the glacial till, as well as the more uniform loess, contain all the elements which are necessary for plant food and form a most fertile soil, especially after the remains of generations of vegetable growth have been added to them to aid in forming a black top soil. The manufacturer may go far afield in search of produce for his mills, the miner and quarryman must needs delve beneath the soil for coal and stone, but eventually they must all look to the soil of Iowa for strength and sustenance. It needs but a moment's reflection to realize with what care such a precious heritage should be guarded and to understand that every means should be taken to perpetuate the valuable properties of this basis of Iowa's prosperity. Intelligent methods of soil culture, foresight in preventing waste by erosion and every aid that can be brought to bear should be utilized toward this end.

While the sources of Crawford county's wealth must always lie preëminently in her soils, there are one or two others which are worthy of mention here. One of these is the beds of gravels mentioned as having been brought down by the Aftonian streams. These are of great value for all purposes in which such material can be used, such as concrete, mortar, road building and others. There is no better road metal to be found than these gravels and roadways built of them are permanent and clean. It may be mentioned in passing that many of the wells of the county find their supplies of water in the sheet of gravel of similar age which underlies the loess and Kansan drift—the yellow and blue clays of the well drillers.

Another natural resource of the county is its brick material. This is very largely the loess, which because of its freedom from pebbles, its fine texture and uniform composition is admirably adapted for making the commoner grades of ware.

The foregoing sketch must have shown the reader how long and complex has been the history of the geological periods through which Crawford county has passed. The hills and valleys, the rocks and clays, all have a wonderful story to tell and unfold a fascinating panorama to him who has but eyes to see and a mind to read. Crawford county scenery has not, to be sure, the grandeur of mountains and canyons, but her prairies and rivers, her rocks and her soils bespeak a past as marvelous and forces as imposing as those which have raised mountains and carved canyons.

THE GREAT RIDGE ROAD.

(Reprinted from an article in *The Denison Review*, by
F. W. Meyers, and included by request.)

There are many beautiful drives in Crawford county, but somehow none of them appeals to our imagination more vividly than does the old ridge road northwest of Denison. It is a bleak, lonely, wind-beaten old road. Way back in the days of our youth it led into a far-off unknown land called the "German settlement." It used to be a great mystery to us, coming over the houseless prairies so many miles.

The old ridge road differs from other roads in many ways. It speaks not so much of the present generation as of the past. It was the first pioneer who laid out the ridge road, or perhaps it was the Indian or the buffalo. At any rate it was laid out to follow the path of least resistance. It sweeps gracefully about the hilltops, clinging ever to the summits. It avoids the steep places, skirts the hollows, dodges the corners and looks down on all the country round with supreme arrogance.

The ridge road is the ridge road from the time it leaves Main street and debouches—that is the proper word for a ridge road—into the valley. Man may gravel it as he will and toy with it and grade it and otherwise abuse it, but the ridge road is the ridge road still.

Let it be distinctly understood that the ridge road does not follow the fences or the telephone poles. The poles and the fences follow the ridge road. The ridge road is no respecter of persons. It had much rather go through a field than around it, and it will run right up to your back yard as soon as to your front one if your house does not have sense enough to meet the situation and face itself about.

Then, too, the superciliousness with which the ridge road greets the poor, little straight-laced, orthodox section line roads. How it looks at them out of the tail of its eye and flings a flirtatious curve at them from out of its many windings.

It seems to say, "I am the great ridge road. See how I disdain all confines. See how I ride the prairies as the good ship rides the waves. Poor little section roads, I pity you, with your bridges, your culverts, your banks of snow, your washouts, your ups and downs. The rain runs off my back in summer and winds are my servants to sweep me clean in winter. I am the great ridge road."

As the ever winding river told the Lady of Shalot all the happenings, sad and gay, of the little world below, so the ridge road tells its tale of sorrow and joy.

It was along its windings that the first pioneers struck out across the prairies. It was along this trail that the German emigrant, tired with the confusion of a new land, choked with the dust of trains, drew his first full breath of prairie air and disappeared, swallowed up in that mysterious German settlement, to return so soon indeed a full-fledged American citizen.

It was on the old ridge road that the long train of wagons came out of the mist, long before the sun rose, each wagon a torture pen to sleek, fat

swine, whose piteous shrieks and squeals and grunts punctuated each rut and declivity in the road, while stolid drivers strode along, beating their arms for warmth or enlivening the way by merry shouts and calls and glad "Good mornings," or a catch of some old German song.

Have you ever seen the ridge road on a circus day? Even the horses are glad when they come out of the everlasting hills, and with a swagger and a swing show their best paces as they strike the ridge. Father relaxes and gives himself up to the luxury of his pipe. There is no need of driving on the ridge road. Mother sits back and nestles baby closer and smiles her greetings to the neighbors. The girls, in white, be-sashed and be-ribboned like so many rainbows. The boys, with shining, apple cheeks, eyes tingling with excitement, fingers counting over the change that is soon to be metamorphosed into red lemonade and peanuts. My, but it is a happy crowd, a pretty picture.

"Good morning! Are you going to the show?" Such a silly, senseless question, but so neighborly and kind, it would be a shame not to evoke the glad reply, "Yes, of course. Are you?" And so they go swinging down the ridge road into town.

There is a cloud of dust at the roadside, a spanking team goes dashing by. It is a brand new buggy, Just as shiny and black as paint and varnish and hard scrubbing can make it.

There is a flutter of a kerchief and a merry shout as Mary and her beau rush by. Father grunts contentedly, the youngsters snigger, and mother, well, mother knows, and mother sighs. Last year Mary rode to the circus with the family and it seems such a little while ago when she was the baby and rode in mother's arms. But there, this is a day of gladness and of joy. See the long line of teams winding on ahead and down into the valley and up the hill to town. We hope none of them will be late for the parade.

The ridge road could tell many stories if it wished. It could tell of slow processions with a big black wagon on ahead. It could tell of rapid flights for doctors needed in the night, of tired farmers peering into the darkness for the bright gleam of home, of little travelers, dinner pail in hand, plucking the wild flowers on their way to school.

But for ourselves we must admit that the gladdest sight has been the lights of Denison gleaming from its home among the hills. Now straight in front, now to the right, now to the left, but gleaming ever like a diamond brooch on the breast of mother earth. What if the winds be sweeping o'er the ridge, what if the rain be cold, what if the night be dark—it only makes the lights gleam brighter.

There is your journey's end; there await comfort and light and warmth and food; and there await those loving hearts: the wifely kiss, the childish voice. There at your journey's end is all that makes life worth living. Yes, there is no road like the great ridge road as it winds among the hills. It is bleak and drear, but it tells of cheer at the end of your journey's ills. It is vast like life, and its tortuous course tells the tale of mortal toil with its turns and twists and windings, drawing ever near the goal. Out betwixt the stars and the prairies, with God on every hand, there is something about the great ridge road that appeals to the best in a man.

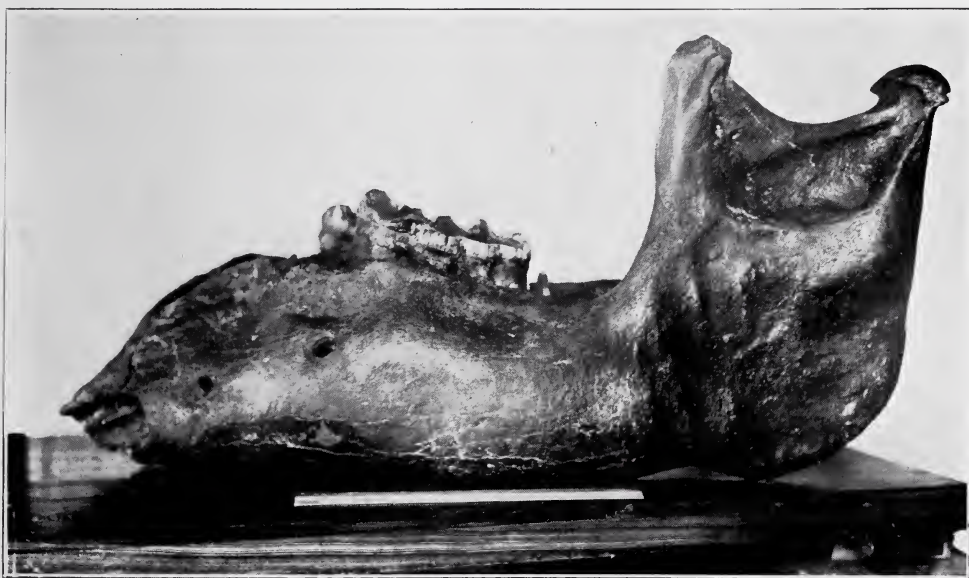
CRAWFORD COUNTY CENSUS.

Through the kindness of the United States Census Commission the following comparative table of the census of Crawford county for the years 1890, 1900 and 1910 have been secured for the purposes of this history in advance of the Iowa official publication. The table is as follows:

	1910	1900	1890
CRAWFORD COUNTY	20,041	21,685	18,894
Boyer township	497	514	373
Charter Oak township, including Charter Oak town	1,313	1,491	1,214
<i>Charter Oak town</i>	734	772	567
Denison township, including Denison city	3,715	3,646	2,503
<i>Denison city</i>	3,133	2,771	1,782
<i>Ward 1</i>	973	.....	.....
<i>Ward 2</i>	875	.....	.....
<i>Ward 3</i>	1,285	.....	.....
East Boyer township	543	629	686
Goodrich township	600	807	794
Hanover township	706	746	821
Hayes township	560	736	830
Iowa township	763	952	921
Jackson township	611	659	655
Milford township, including Deloit town	912	1,085	950
<i>Deloit town</i>	208	.....	.....
Morgan township	610	836	874
Nishnabotny township, including Manilla town ...	1,678	1,655	1,222
<i>Manilla town</i>	875	773	526
Otter Creek township, including Kiron and Schles-			
wig towns	1,390	1,187	901
<i>Kiron town</i>	207	89	.....
<i>Schleswig town</i>	455	233	.....
Paradise township	694	788	619
Soldier township, including Ricketts town	638	653	687
<i>Ricketts town</i>	102	.....	.....
Stockholm township	754	946	800
Union township, including Arion and Dow City			
towns	1,296	1,408	1,078
<i>Arion town</i>	168	192	.....
<i>Dow City town</i>	462	462	451
Washington township, including Buck Grove town	731	793	706
<i>Buck Grove town</i>	87	.....	.....
Westside township, including Vail and Westside			
towns	1,466	1,518	1,658
<i>Vail town</i>	631	578	538
<i>Westside town</i>	367	396	448
Willow township	564	636	602



Plate V—Fragments of tusks of fossil elephant from sand pit at Denison, Iowa



Photos by S. Calvin

Plate VI—Lower jaw of Mastodon Americanus from Missouri Valley, Iowa. This jaw is thirty-two inches long, the figure is only a little more than one-fifth natural size. This gigantic, elephant-like creature once inhabited Crawford County

THE FIRST IRISHMEN.

At an old settlers picnic an interesting paper was read concerning the early Irish settlers of Crawford county. This element has done much for the up-building of the county and enrolls many of those who have been most prominent in the county's history. Unfortunately it is impossible to give the complete text of this address but below is given a list of the Irish settlers from 1854 to 1870, and also a list of the first Irishmen in the different townships of the county.

Early Irish Settlers:—1854-1870.

Charles Kennedy, 1854; Samuel Kennedy, first surveyor; 1855, Thomas O'Connor, 1857; Dr. David McWilliams, 1856-58; A. D. and Michael Molony, 1858-60. Morris McHenry, 1856; W. A. McHenry, '66; Michael McAndrews, Owen Cain and mother and sister, Mrs. John Lucy, J. C. and Martin Barrett, James and Samuel Smith, Thomas Luney, James Rollins, 1865; Martin Conroy, Michael Haley, John Noonan, Michael Caulfield, Owen and Henry DeVitt, 1865-69; Michael McMahan, Mike Houlihan, Tom and James Collins, 1869-70.

Early Irish Settlers by townships.

Jackson, Owen Cain, mother and sister Mrs. John Lucy, 1865.

West Side, Michael McAndrews and family, September, 1865.

Hayes, Jas. E. Walsh and family, 1871.

Iowa, Michael McMahan, 1869.

Nishnabotna, Patrick McGrath, 1872.

East Boyer, Dr. David McWilliams, 1856-58.

Milford, Morris McHenry, 1856, and Michael Caulfield and Owen and Henry DeVitt, 1869.

Stockholm, Anthony Gonnigle, and Ed. Monaghan, 1876.

Denison, Thomas Connor, 1857, A. D. and Michael Molony, 1858-60.

Washington, Isaac Gilmore, 1869, John O'Leary and E. Moore, 1871.

Union, Charles Kennedy, 1854; Michael Haley, 1867-8; J. V. McHenry, 1867.

Paradise, J. C. Saul, Wm. Purcell, John Keating, 1870-72.

Hanover, Michael Purcell, 1872; John Meehan, 1866-68.

Soldier, J. C. Barrett, and Martin Barrett, 1866-68.

Charter Oak, John A. O'Doherty, 1875.

Willow, Con Flynn, 1874.

Boyer, John Noonan, 1867-8.

CHAPTER XXXV.

ARION.

The town of Arion sprang up, although within a short distance of Dow City, on account of the building of the Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway which crossed the Northwestern where Arion stands. The large passenger traffic interchanged by the two roads necessitated accommodations for travelers and around this nucleus grew up the new town. Later the building of the Illinois Central gave Arion added importance as a junction point and gave it the best shipping facilities of any town of its size in Iowa. One can but think that in time this will be an important distributing point.

The town was incorporated in April 1894, and the first mayor was Mr. N. Richards, who early engaged in the hotel business. Mr. Richards died during his term of office and S. H. Downs presided over the council, until the election of W. B. Evans in 1896. In 1898 Valdo Talcott was elected and, upon his resignation, Mr. Bert Slocumb was elected to fill the vacancy. The following is a list of succeeding mayors: 1900, W. B. Evans; 1902, L. M. Coon; 1904-'6, J. L. Maurer; 1908, A. A. Conrad; 1910, N. F. Stilson. J. A. Rule is clerk and the council is composed of Mr. C. W. Nelson, A. A. Conrad, Henry Peterson, S. J. Maurer, and J. N. Lee. The population of Arion is 255 by actual count and it is a neat, clean little town with many pleasant homes. Its earlier history was marked by some lawlessness on account of the fact that it was a convenient stopping point for that class of undesirable citizens known as tramps. The perpetration of several serious crimes aroused the good citizens of the place and of the county so much that a deputy sheriff was appointed for Arion and vicinity. The Deputy was however removed to Denison in 1907. These efforts to maintain law and order were successful and of late years Arion has been so well policed that in spite of the large drifting population it is as peaceful and orderly as any other part of the county. Under the circumstances, this is a decided victory for the better element of the town. On account of the many trains passing daily and the net work of tracks, occasioned by the crossing of three railroads Arion has also been the scene of several fatal accidents. It is to be hoped that the future historian can record that these conditions have been remedied.

Arion received a temporary set-back when the large store building of the Arion mercantile company, together with other business houses, was totally

destroyed by fire on October 11, 1909. The town is recovering from this, however, and is showing a commendable spirit of progress and activity. One of the successful enterprises in which the people of Arion and vicinity have engaged as a whole, assisted very largely by good men all over the county, is the re-founding and maintaining of the Crawford county fair. An association has been formed, grounds leased and successful exhibitions given for four years. The present officers of the Crawford county Agricultural Society are: President, W. E. Eggers; Vice-president, Chas. Smith, Dow City; Secretary, O. M. Criswell, Arion; Treasurer, J. B. Glassburner, Arion.

Arion owns an ample water system furnishing abundant supply for the use of the people and good fire protection. The city is provided with fire fighting apparatus and a good volunteer company. The business houses of Arion include two good hotels, a general store, owned by A. A. Conrad, who has been in business since 1897; a meat market and grocery; a hardware and harness-store; a shoe and furnishing goods store; a barber shop, restaurant and lunch room, pool hall, saloon, lumber yard, grain business, livery stable, building contractor, mason and a blacksmith and wagon shop, operated by the worthy mayor, Mr. N. F. Stilson.

The Arion State Bank was organized August 1, 1902, with J. L. Maurer, president; M. B. Nelson, cashier. The present officials are Sam Fox Sr., President; W. E. Eggers, vice-president; C. M. Criswell, cashier. This bank holds and deserves the confidence of the community and does excellent business. In 1903, the bank built a fine two story brick building which is now occupied, the first floor, by the bank and the post office, which is presided over by Mrs. W. B. Evans, and the second floor, by the offices of the Arion Exchange of the Crawford county telephone company, which operates from this point, the telephones of Dow City and of a large area in the southwestern part of the county.

In its earlier history Arion had three church organizations, Baptist, Methodist, and Christian. At a meeting of the various churches it was decided that the town could not well support so many religious institutions and differences of creed were laid aside and all the good people of the city joined in worshipping as one congregation. This Union church is affiliated with the Congregational Brotherhood, the first pastor being Rev. A. W. McNeal, who, after two years, was succeeded by Alfred Bashford. During his pastorate, a fine new church was erected. Rev. E. C. Walcott, now of Sioux City, succeeded and he was followed by Reverends Grigsby and Freedline. Later, the church called Rev. C. E. Walch and the present pastor is Rev. E. D. Calkins. The Union Sunday School, over which N. F. Stilson has been superintendent since 1905, is an important factor in the religious life of the city.

Arion has maintained a good school system although until August 1, 1910, it was a part of the Union township school district. Upon becoming an independent district, the following officers were elected: N. F. Stilson, George Argotsinge, Henry Peterson, Joseph Kepford, George Reynolds, directors, J. A. Rule, clerk, P. M. Doidge, treasurer. Mr. Stilson is president of the board. The school is conducted in two rooms, and the teaching force for this year was Miss Mabel Howorth, principal; Mrs. C. C. Bunch, assistant; Miss Lysle Goldworthy, primary. The board has added a third room to the schoolhouse and will carry the

work of the high school to the eleventh grade, a year more than at present. This year witnessed the first commencement of the Arion school with a class of six graduates.

Arion camp No. 5560, of the Modern Woodmen of America was organized in 1898, with N. F. Stilson, V. C.; P. J. Eggers, W. A.; A. A. Conrad, clerk. There were many changes among the officers of the camp, although Mr. Stilson occupied the chair almost continuously up to January 1, 1910, when Mr. T. F. Howlett succeeded him as V. C. and the officers for 1911 are, M. R. Doidge, V. C.; Louis Kepford, W. A.; Earl Kepford, banker; P. M. Doidge, clerk; N. F. Stilson, Henry Doidge, and L. C. Butler, managers. This lodge includes a large proportion of the residents of Arion and vicinity and, together with the auxiliary order of the Royal Neighbors, is the center of the social life of the town.

Conger Camp No. 2277, Royal Neighbors of America was organized with the following officers, Mrs. Chas. Underhill, O.; Mrs. Minnie Westerman, V. O.; Mrs. Lillie Lee, receiver; Mrs. L. Butler, recorder. The present officers are, Mrs. L. C. Butler, O.; Mrs. Lillie Lee, V. O.; Mrs. Alice Butler, C.; Mrs. Pearl Turland, receiver; Mrs. N. F. Stilson, recorder; Mrs. S. Marr, marshall. This camp was organized at the time of the Boxer uprising in China and the camp was named in honor of the United States minister to China, Major E. H. Conger, of Iowa.

The business houses of Arion are established on a sound business basis and are gaining for themselves an increasing trade territory. The business brought to the town by the travelling public is of considerable volume, and at some time the economic value of Arion as a shipping point will be more fully recognized and the little city will come into its own.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

CHARTER OAK.

As we have seen in our chapter on county history, the territory now comprising Charter Oak was in the earlier days a part of Monona county. For this reason it was not identified with the first history of our settlers and was in some respects, an unknown territory. It first became a part of this county as a portion of Boyer township, and it was not until a number of years later that it had an identity of its own. The land along the Maple and the Soldier north of Charter Oak was first settled as the open prairie, and was not supposed to be of great value. The great land companies, however, became interested in the vicinity and it was exploited by the Providence Western Land Co., the American Emigration Co. and the Iowa Railroad Land Co. The government post road from Denison to Sioux City went through Charter Oak and Soldier township and the mail was distributed from different points. One of the earliest newspaper mentions we find is one on August 13, 1869, where it is mentioned that W. H. Crombie of Davenport, Iowa, had purchased a large tract of land near Charter Oak, had many acres broken, and seven houses built. For many years Charter Oak was the most sparsely settled of any township in the county. In 1871 we find that the school census showed 22 males and 18 females, and for a long time school apportionments showed that Charter Oak had the fewest inhabitants of any township in the county. The township is, of course, named after the famous Charter Oak of Connecticut. In 1872 Charter Oak embraced what is now Soldier township, also a board of trustees is given as H. W. Bristol, Jacob Barrett and Barnes Dowd. In 1874 the township officers were as follows: O. M. Criswell, clerk; Barney Brazell, A. P. Hart, E. LeValley, trustees; A. P. Hart, assessor; E. LeValley and J. H. Hubbard, justices; G. Cribbs, E. Adams, constables; O. M. Criswell, G. Cribbs, road supervisors.

In 1874, the statement is made that the Iowa Railroad Land Co. owned nearly half of the non-resident lands of the township. Mr. O. M. Criswell was one of the pioneer settlers and around his hospitable farmhouse finally grew the nucleus of Charter Oak. A postoffice was located, a blacksmith shop and a store built and this became the nucleus of the present town. Mr. and Mrs.

Criswell were open-handed, hospitable people then, as they are to-day, and their home became a well recognized halfway house between Denison and the settlement along the Maple river. The increasing emigration to the county finally reached the vicinity of Charter Oak, although it was a long way from a market and this discouraged settlement. For many years the hay lands in Willow and Charter Oak were considered a common property and we find records of Denison people going there to make hay upon the non-occupied lands.

It was not until the building of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway from Manilla to Sioux City that the present town of Charter Oak took form. At the sale of lots the competition was brisk and business sites brought high prices, as it was felt that the new town was to be one of the best trading points in the county. The first building was the old Oak store, occupied by W. W. Cushman. This building was moved from the old site of Charter Oak post-office on the Criswell farm, and it has remained one of the chief business centers of the city, the old building now being replaced by a handsome brick structure. Many other buildings followed and the town sprang up as if by magic. Numerous business houses including a bank, and a newspaper were soon established and the town at once became a busy market. By December, 1890, the town had sufficiently advanced so that incorporation was necessary and a petition was presented to the district court. This petition was filed February 14, 1891. Judge C. D. Goldsmith appointed as commissioners, O. M. Criswell, H. F. Arff, S. Schurke, F. Dubois and W. P. Mulhoren, to carry out the formalities of incorporation. W. P. Mulhoren was the first mayor and Ed Haas the first clerk. It is significant of the prosperity and enterprise of the city that ordinance No. 1 provided for bonds to the extent of \$3,500 for a system of water works. Since that time the city has built an extensive water works system worth \$10,000, and it also owns a gas plant valued at \$8,000 and the city will be entirely free from debt within the coming year. Particular attention is also paid to schools and Charter Oak has an excellent schoolhouse and may well be proud of its school system.

Those who have held the office of mayor are W. P. Mulhoren, W. C. Johnson, P. D. McMahon, John Bolieu, Dr. Waterhouse, Dr. J. J. McWilliams, the present mayor. In addition to Mayor McWilliams, Mr. E. F. Glaue is clerk, W. F. Peterson is treasurer, M. Copps, Hans Hagge, A. Rogers, Charles Robinson and J. Grabow, councilmen.

Charter Oak prides itself not only upon its volume of business, which is very large, as it has a splendid agricultural territory from which to draw, but upon its residence streets, its well kept lawns and substantial cement walks. The business of the city is represented by four general merchandise establishments, one jewelry store, two hardware, two millinery, one shoe, one furniture, two banks, two drug stores, three implement houses, three cream stations, two barber shops, one meat market, one elevator, one flouring mill, two lumber yards, one livery, two garages, one cigar factory, one hotel, one restaurant, one lunch room, one photograph gallery, one newspaper, three saloons, three physicians, two dentists, two blacksmith shops, one harness shop, telephone exchange, gas plant, four churches, one schoolhouse containing eight rooms.



CITY HALL, CHARTER OAK



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, CHARTER OAK

LIVE OAK LODGE, A. F. & A. M.

A dispensation was issued to Live Oak Lodge, A. F. & A. M., on August 5, 1895, upon petition of the following: F. P. Guild, J. L. Walter, J. H. Stough, J. J. McWilliams, O. M. Criswell, A. P. Hart, F. W. Pithon, C. H. A. Davis, C. C. Booth, J. S. Sherman, Isaiah Liglin, George Richardson and W. W. Cushman, at which time the following officers were elected: F. P. Guild, W. M.; J. L. Walter, S. W.; J. H. Stough, J. W.; F. W. Pithon, treasurer; and O. M. Criswell, secretary.

The lodge worked under the dispensation until July, 1896, when it was granted a charter by the Grand Lodge of Iowa.

Of the original charter members only two now reside in Charter Oak, namely, F. W. Pithon and J. J. McWilliams. The lodge has always been fairly active and has initiated forty-three members since its organization. Of these members, four have been lost by death, namely, C. Schurke, A. P. Hart, C. H. A. Davis and J. H. Kuehl.

The present officers are: R. R. Weed, W. M.; C. A. Mains, S. W.; John Grubon, J. W.; F. W. Pithon, treasurer; J. Pruehs, secretary. It is a noteworthy fact connected with this lodge that one man, Dr. G. S. Waterhouse, served as Worshipful Master for ten consecutive years.

CHARTER OAK LODGE, NO. 105, I. O. O. F.

Charter Oak Lodge No. 105, I. O. O. F., was instituted at Charter Oak, Iowa, December 24, 1888, by District Deputy Grand Master Jackson, of Mankato, Iowa. The charter was issued October 18, 1889, by Grand Master William Musson and Grand Secretary William Garrets to the following members of the order: Robert L. Owens, M. L. Jones, W. S. McVey and James K. Wilson. Among the charter members were Charles Robertson, Theo. Drake, John Adams, John H. Jones, C. C. Hardy, George Hecht, Charles Robertson and S. W. Seymour. The lodge room is comfortably furnished and heated, being free from all indebtedness. The members possess a complete outfit of costumes and regalia, purchased in 1906 at a cost of five hundred dollars. At present the lodge has a membership roll of forty-eight active members. They have lost one brother by death, Orlando Cavett, who died in 1909.

The spirit of fraternity which constitutes the foundation of the organization has prompted them to extend aid to brothers who are in need, sick benefits ranging from three to twenty dollars a week, according to the exigencies of the case, having been allowed to many. The finances of the organization are divided into three funds, namely: the Relief Fund, the Widows and Orphans Fund and the General Fund. They now have to their credit about five hundred dollars in bank certificates.

The present officers are: Noble Grand, L. L. Perry; Vice Grand, Julius Pruehs; Secretary, J. E. Glau; and Treasurer, Theodore Drake.

THE REBEKAH LODGE.

The Pleasant Oak Lodge, No. 563, of the great order of Rebekahs, was founded at Charter Oak March 20, 1906. The charter members were: J. L. Bean, Mrs. Katherine Bean, A. Snyder, Mrs. Priscilla Snyder, G. M. Deter, Mrs. Hester Deter, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Heald, Theodore Drake, Mrs. Nellie Brewster, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Jones and Charles Roberts. The lodge was instituted by the staff of the Ute Lodge and the first officers were: N. G., Mrs. Katherine Bean; V. G., Mrs. Priscilla Snyder; Secretary, Mrs. Alice Jones; Treasurer, Mrs. Hester Deter; Warden, Mrs. H. G. Heald; Conductor, Mrs. Nellie Brewster; R. S. to N. G., J. L. Bean; Charles Robertson and Nellie McWilliams; L. S. to V. G., Nellie Robertson; chaplain, Cora Robertson; I. G., G. M. Deter; O. G., Asa Jones; Trustees, A. Snyder, Mrs. H. G. Heald, Mrs. Nellie Brewster. The present officers are: Mrs. Minnie Davis, N. G.; Clara Pruesh, V. G.; Clara Davis, Secretary; Arthur Hanchette, Treasurer. The camp has lost two members by death, Mrs. Theodore Wyckoff, who died in November, 1908, and Miss Meta Jacobsen, who died February 2, 1911. The lodge now has a membership of forty, is in excellent financial condition, and furnishes many of the most delightful events of Charter Oak's social life.

THE MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA.

The largest order in Charter Oak is Charter Oak Camp No. 1,892, Modern Woodmen of America. This camp was organized January 26, 1893, and the following names appear upon this chapter: E. P. Andrews, W. C. Johnson, S. A. Anderson, A. C. Leeper, W. S. McVey, M. O. Barnes, J. A. Mains, D. Bornholdt, D. H. McWilliams, R. W. Bamford, Bert McElwain, R. W. Butterworth, Edw. Mitter, C. G. Campbell, J. M. Nepper, J. B. Crowe, S. L. Pfeleger, Thomas C. Dubois, D. D. Palmer, E. L. Dickmains, I. Pierce, J. Frahm, A. L. Rule, Ansel Fish, W. J. Savage, H. C. Freese, W. J. Steven, Aug. Gulch, F. L. Schumaker, T. M. Gardner, H. C. Saul, M. Hersain, J. L. Walters, B. Habink, A. H. Hoffman, L. B. Jenness, B. C. Jacobsen, W. A. Antimm.

The camp has a large membership and has been very fortunate in that no member has died since the organization of the camp. The order fills a large place in the social life of Charter Oak, and it has a loyal membership. The present officers are: Julius Prehs, V. C.; J. W. Spreck, W. A.; R. R. Weed, E. B.; A. A. Hanchett, Escort; B. E. Weed, Watchman; Dr. G. R. Hill, Dr. G. S. Waterhouse and Dr. J. J. McWilliams, physicians; M. Copps, D. Bornholdt and C. H. Stark, trustees.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD.

White Oak camp No. 112, W. O. W. was organized at Charter Oak Iowa, December 29, 1896, with the following officers: C. F. Garrett, C. C.; I. A. Mains, Advisor; G. S. Waterhouse, Banker; F. W. Loomis, Clerk; Al. Snyder, Escort; F. H. Davis, Watchman; Theo. Wyckoff, Sentry; G. S. Waterhouse,



CATHOLIC CHURCH AND PARSONAGE, CHARTER OAK



A RESIDENCE STREET IN CHARTER OAK

Physician; J. A. Houlihan, Dan McGrath, Frantz Riedesel, Managers. The camp has led a most successful existence and is now in a prosperous condition with a good membership. The present officers are, W. A. Pankow, P. C. C.; G. S. Waterhouse, C. C.; F. H. Davis, Advisor; Theo. Wyckoff, Banker; F. H. Eckert, Clerk; J. J. Hansen, escort; W. L. Eckert, Watchman; Arthur Hof-fard, Sentry; G. S. Waterhouse, Physician; F. H. Davis, G. S. Waterhouse, Theo. Wyckoff, managers.



STREET SCENE IN DELOIT



WOLF STREET, DELOIT

CHAPTER XXXVII.

DELOIT.

Nestled on the hillside at the head of a turn of the Boyer valley is the village of Deloit. The coming of two railroads has failed to modernize it completely or to rob it of that dear quaintness which is its characteristic charm. Across the river among the wooded hills, was where the first real settlement was made in Crawford county. It was here that Jesse Mason, the mighty hunter, first built his log abode. It was along the fringes of this wood that the Dobsons, Skinners, Horrs, Johnson and Wicks and other families found shelter. Just across the river is the site of the old Dobson mill, which for many years was the center of all the activities of the country. Not far from it was the old log schoolhouse. It is usual that the handicraft of man outlasts its maker. The pyramids stand as mighty monuments of a well nigh forgotten past. The ancient mounds exist, while the mound builders are prehistoric; but of this little settlement in Mason's grove, it is a peculiar fact that scarcely a trace remains of any of the rude log cabins, which sheltered the first settlers. There is no trace of the Dobson mill, and practically nothing of the McKim mill erected at a later date on Otter Creek.

The first building on the site of Deloit proper was erected by Benjamin Dobson, in about 1856. The second frame house was a very commodious one for those days, and was built by Wm. McKim for Thomas Dobson in 1858. This house is still standing. It is said that W. W. Fowler was the first merchant, having some goods for sale in his cabin on what is known as the Newt. Brogden place. This little store was operating about 1855. In 1856 Mr. H. C. Laub entered the mercantile field, and he furnished the goods, which were sold on commission by B. F. Dobson, in a little store building which still stands, and in which, as the present dweller informed us, "every family in Deloit had lived at some time or other."

Later a store was operated in the home of Ethan McKim and after the war Capt. B. F. Darling opened a more pretentious mercantile establishment, which was continued under various owners until it was burned to the ground something like a quarter of a century later. The old store operated by Hunt Bros. was also a noted landmark, and this store under different owners and in different locations, has continued up to the present time.

The first settlement of Mason's Grove was made up of members of the Mormon church who had followed the varying fortunes of that religious organization and who finally separated themselves from the mother church, largely on account of the introduction of the adoption of polygamy. Some of the old settlers of Deloit were with the Mormons in the neighborhood of Nauvoo, Ill., and witnessed the persecutions to which the leaders of their church were subjected.

These immigrants coming up from the Missouri river, such as Mason, the Dobsons and others, were joined by immigrants from the east such as Richardson and B. F. Wicks. The exigencies of frontier life threw these people into close relationship, made them forget religious differences, and in fact, many of the settlers from the east soon became ardent supporters of the new faith. It is evidence of the goodliness of the locality that so many of these older settlers remained and that their descendants form a large percentage of the population of Deloit. The various families intermarried and grew up almost as one big family. One must be careful in Deloit how he speaks of any man, for it is almost sure that he is at least talking of a cousin. At first this settlement was known almost exclusively as Mason's Grove. The mail was received irregularly from Galland's Grove. Soon, however, a postoffice was established with Ben Dobson as postmaster. It then became necessary to select a name, and the office was known as Boyer Valley, then as "Bloomington," but it was found that there were many places of this name in the United States, and the postal department requested that some other name be chosen. Mason, Mason Grove, and Mason City were suggested; but finally the name of "Beloit" was chosen. There were too many cities of this name also, so rather than to hunt up a new name for the settlement, the B was changed to D, and the village will doubtless go down to posterity as Deloit.

Mr. Thomas Dobson is authority for the statement that Deloit was the second town in the county to be surveyed into town lots, Denison being first, although Deloit was the older settlement. The growth of Denison, the county seat, but seven miles distant and the fact that it later became a railroad point, while Deloit was inland, prevented the town from achieving any marked growth, but it has always been a good trading point for the farmers in the rich country of which it is the center. Until the later days the postoffice was in the main store of the town. Among the earlier postmasters were: Benjamin Dobson, Ethan McKim, Capt. B. F. Darling, E. F. Fegtley and N. L. Hunt. The latter day postmasters have been: Scott McKim, Sylvester Horr, J. C. Cose and Ray Shives.

Deloit at the present is a pleasant little village, the residences presenting a wide variation from the plain, home-made frame dwellings of fifty years ago, to the bright new modern home. The business district is removed from the lofty height of Main street and is now snuggled at the foot of the hill near the depots of the Northwestern and Illinois Central.

The town has one general store, two grocery stores, a cream station, barber shop, blacksmith shop, meat market, restaurant, shoe shop, elevator, live-stock buyer, and saloon. The town is provided with a good schoolhouse, containing two rooms which are at present presided over by Miss Tittsworth and



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DELOIT



LATTER DAY SAINTS CHURCH, DELOIT

Miss E. Dobson. The religious interests are divided between the Methodist Episcopal church and the organization of Latter Day Saints. The Ladies Aid Society provides largely for the Methodist Episcopal organization, while the "Willing Workers" hold a like important position with the Latter Day Saints.

The fraternal orders are represented by the Modern Brotherhood of America and the Modern Woodmen of America, brief sketches of which will be found in another place. For a short time Deloit boasted a bank, but the business did not warrant its continuance. The town was incorporated in 1900 and now has capable and efficient management. The names of the present city officers follow: Mayor, L. N. Fear; clerk, J. W. True; treasurer, B. E. McKim; assessor, Wm. Worley; councilmen, J. L. Miller, George Winans, Myron Meyers, John Anderson, Earl Winans.

Deloit is a beautiful, restful little place. It has no very rich and no very poor. A large majority of its people know from experience what it is to earn one's bread by the sweat of the brow. They are justly proud of the record they have made for good citizenship, the upbuilding and maintenance of happy homes and for the high standard of Americanism, which has prevailed among them. It is the mother town of Crawford county, and just as one appreciates going back to the Old Home with all its dear associations, so must Deloit hold its place in the affections of Crawford county as the birthplace of its civilization.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

KIRON AND THE SWEDISH SETTLEMENT.

One of the most prosperous parts of Crawford county is that portion of Stockholm and Otter Creek townships in which live from eighty to ninety per cent of the Swedish population of the county. It is a region of well kept homes and highly cultivated fields and bespeaks on every hand the careful methods, the prudence and the unremitting toil of the old world. There are no measured metes and bounds, but one can tell that he is in the Swedish settlement by the distinctive look of the homes and of the farms. The story of how this Swedish element came to Crawford county, established itself, and created and maintained an individuality of its own, is an interesting one. In 1867 C. J. Star, C. P. Frodig, and N. F. Rodine, who had been living in Swedebend, Webster county, Iowa, started out to look for a location for a settlement. They were a clannish people, and there is but little wonder, for they had been in this country but a short time and they were surrounded by a people who did not speak their tongue or understand their ways. This naturally brought the men of the northland into very close communion with each other. These three Swedish pioneers were, then, prospecting not only for themselves but for others. The objective point was the Missouri bottom; but they did not like the land, as they thought it too flat and that it would be subject to overflow. On their return they stopped at the little town of Denison and there met Mr. J. W. Denison, who told them of the land along the Otter creek and above Deloit. They were pleased with the land and decided to locate. This they did, buying a considerable tract at \$3 per acre. In September of the same year, H. Hollander, P. Peterson, A. Anderson, E. Monson and E. Erickson, joined the new community. In 1868, Mr. Star wrote to his old friend, A. Norelius, who was then living in Minnesota, and told him of the rich country they had found and the pleasant community they had established.

Mr. Norelius was impressed with the letter and in the middle of May, 1868, in company with H. Buller, E. Ward and J. Nordell, he started across the country in a prairie schooner, reaching northern Crawford the latter part of June. Mr. Norelius purchased land at \$5 per acre and in 1870 his family joined him in the new home. The postoffice was at Deloit, but in 1873, a post-

it was his duty to carry the mail from Deloit once a week, receiving therefor \$20 per year. This settlement is spoken of by earlier writers concerning our county as "Swedeboy" or "Swedeberg," but the Swedish settlers did not like this name, as there were many similar names, so a meeting was called to decide upon a new name. Mr. Lars Olson and Mr. Norelius discussed the matter together, and for some unknown reason, decided upon the name "Kiron," which name was taken from a settlement in Manchuria. Mr. Norelius was postmaster at Kiron for eighteen years, and around the office there gradually grew a little settlement at what is now called Old Kiron. The first store was operated by Swede Bros., and the first buildings in Old Kiron were erected by John O. Lindblom, Nels Anderson, A. Norelius, H. Buller and E. Swede. At first the school district coincided with what was then called Jackson township. It was four miles wide and twenty-four miles long. A good brick schoolhouse was erected on the line between what are now Jackson and Stockholm townships, and in 1869 a second schoolhouse was built on C. J. Star's land, on the line between Stockholm and Otter Creek, one and one-half miles south of Kiron. The settlers joined in a petition to the county supervisors, as a result of which the school districts were made to coincide with the government townships, and the sub-districts were created as we have them today. Schoolhouse number three was then built in Old Kiron.

One evidence of the progress of the community is found in the fact that as early as March, 1879, a mutual insurance company was organized under the name of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Association. A. Norelius, president; N. F. Rodine, vice-president; C. J. Johnson, secretary; August Lundell, treasurer; H. Hollander, A. F. Lundberg, John Hogland, J. Johnson, J. N. Anderson, J. A. Stolt, and C. O. Edling, directors. During the year 1879 the risks written amounted to \$47,485, while the last report made to the auditor of the state for the year 1910, shows risks in force amounting to \$2,724,812. During its history this association has paid many thousands of dollars in losses and its continued growth is the highest testimonial needed as to its prudent management.

As we have before stated, Swede Bros. opened a small grocery store in Kiron in 1879. Peter Buller also put in a small stock which he subsequently sold to Swede Bros., who conducted the business until 1890, when the death of Eric Swede prompted them to dispose of their stock to Lester & Cole, who sold in turn to Norelius and Nordell in 1892. This building was moved in 1899 to new Kiron and was the pioneer store of that village. In the spring of 1891, A. B. Falk & Co. built a store building and continued in business until about 1897, when they were succeeded by Larson & Erickson; then by A. Arvidson & Co., and they by Hanson & Co., who closed out the business in 1899 and moved the building to the location of New Kiron. Those having served as postmaster of Kiron since the establishment of the office are: A. Norelius, A. B. Falk, G. A. Norelius, S. N. Sandstrom, E. E. Clauson and C. S. Billings, the present incumbent.

The building of the Wall Lake and Mondamin branch of the Northwestern marked a vital epoch in Kiron's history. It was hoped that the station would be located at the old town, but there was some dispute as to the right



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF DELOITT



DELOITT SCHOOL

of way, and the company located its station on the northeast quarter of section twelve, Otter Creek township, one mile south of the corners of Ida and Sac counties. The townsite was purchased by the Western Town Lot Company from N. P. Swanson in the spring of 1899, and the sale of lots was held by the company's agent, Mr. P. W. Whitney, on August 24, 1899. G. A. Norelius was appointed local agent for the company. This was followed by an exodus from the old Kiron to the new. There are still a number of homes remaining at the old town and here may be found a number of the older settlers enjoying the peace and plenty which have come as reward for many years of labor. Here they see, without envy, the bustling prosperity of the younger generation, content to feel that, after all, they were the forerunners and the founders of the good things which they see on every hand.

The first business house in the new town was that of Norelius & Nordell, who moved their store from Old Kiron and commenced business September 16, 1899. The first new building to be erected was the blacksmith shop of P. A. Peterson, and during the same fall J. A. Lawrence erected a large building which was occupied by G. S. Schneider as a barber shop, by E. E. Lawrence as a repair shop and E. C. McKeever as a harness shop. Dr. F. A. Burrows erected a drug store, which was occupied by Hunter, Norelius & Nordell, and the postoffice, and by A. Sederberg as a jeweler. C. J. Chinberg built a general store, which he subsequently sold to Strahn Bros. August Reinking and Adam Auchstetter built the first two saloons and Mauritz Bros. the first hotel. This hotel together with the Auchstetter saloon was destroyed by fire in June, 1901. This is the only destructive fire Kiron has experienced. John Thunstrom built the first harness shop and Charles Reinking the first meat market. V. E. Michaelson was the first implement dealer, Dr. F. A. Burrows the first physician; A. F. Miller was the first livery man and E. L. Miller the first dray man. O. E. Johnson soon erected a second blacksmith shop and Peter Buller moved his blacksmith and wagon shop from Old Kiron. The Boyer Valley Banking Company founded a bank January 1, 1900, with W. J. Sandberg as cashier. This bank was reorganized October 1, 1905, as the Kiron State Bank with Henry Hanson, president; August Lundell, vice-president; W. J. Sandberg, cashier. The directors were: Henry Hanson, August Lundell, Joseph Mattes, W. F. Bay and W. J. Sandberg. The Green Bay Lumber Co. was the first on the ground with W. R. Graham as manager. The Bowman-Kranz Lumber Co. soon followed with J. C. Mengis as manager. E. E. Clauson, who was deputy postmaster for S. N. Sandstrom, opened a furniture store in 1901. Peter N. Nord and N. P. Swanson were the first stock buyers. Mr. Swanson being still in the business. A grain elevator was erected by the Trans-Mississippi Grain Co. during the winter of 1899-1900, with A. L. Pomeroy as manager. F. M. Pomeroy was the first station agent, he having come from Stratford, Iowa, in 1899. The first child born in new Kiron was a girl born to Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Pearson in 1901.

A petition for an election to incorporate was circulated in the spring of 1900 and the first election was held when the following officers were elected: Mayor, F. M. Pomeroy; councilmen, G. A. Norelius, F. A. Burrows, P. A. Peterson, N. P. Swanson, Albert Hanson, J. A. Lawrence; W. R. Graham,

clerk; E. E. Clauson, treasurer; J. C. Mengis, marshal. The first council meeting was held in the waiting room of the depot on the night of June 25, 1900.

The contract for a system of water works was made on July 20, 1906, with The Western Steel Construction Co., of Des Moines, for a 24,000-gallon steel tank, 350 feet of 6-inch main and 3,950 feet of 4-inch main. This system was installed during the spring of 1907. The town was bonded for \$5,000 to pay for the water works and these bonds running for ten years at 6 per cent were sold to the Kiron State Bank at par. The contract price for the water works was \$4,637.

The first newspaper was the Kiron Sentinel, published by Ward Bros., the first issue being March 8, 1900. H. T. Ward succeeded to the ownership and later sold out to Lawrence & Son, who changed the name to the Kiron News. The ownership passed to P. C. Lawrence who published the paper until August, 1910, when it was sold to E. B. Nordell, the present owner.

One of the earliest public enterprises was the erection of an opera house, which was built by the Kiron Hall Association in 1902. G. F. Schneider was president and A. Sederberg, manager. In 1908, the ownership passed to William Strahn and the following year it was acquired by W. J. Sandberg and G. A. Norelius, the present owners. The Farmers' Lumber & Coal Co. was organized in 1903 with a capital stock of \$6,200. The first manager was A. C. Anall, who was succeeded by J. A. Engberg. In August, 1906, J. E. Hoagland, the present manager, was appointed. The officers and directors of this company are E. N. Sandstrom, president; C. W. Nelson, treasurer; Nels Johnston, secretary; C. Wellendorf, W. J. Hewitt, B. A. Samuelson and J. P. Turin, directors.

The Kiron Pharmacy is owned by C. S. Billings, who is also postmaster and who acquired the business from C. C. Walters April 29, 1908. A. E. Anderson opened up a general store in March, 1908. He was a well known citizen, as for several years previously he had run a peddler's wagon north and west of Kiron. John Hoagland and son, C. J. Hoagland, built and opened up a general store in the spring of 1902. The business was continued until 1908, when the stock was sold to John Cedergren. John Hogland was an early settler of Otter Creek township and died at Kiron January 23, 1911. J. Cedergren conducted the business until the spring of 1909, and then sold a half interest to Larson & Turin; they sold to C. S. Johnson, of Boyer, and there were other changes in ownership, the present firm name being Johnson & Sanders. The general store first established by C. J. Chinberg was bought by William and O. E. Strahn in 1901, who conducted the business until 1910 under the firm name of Strahn Bros., when the stock and building was sold to C. S. Johnson, of Boyer. In the spring of 1905, Strahn Bros. opened up a hardware store, which was also sold in 1910. The first hardware store, however, was opened by Al. Hanson in 1900 and continued until 1904. P. B. Miller was the first restaurant keeper, retiring from business in 1911. The business is now conducted by Fouts & Rowbal. The Hotel Kiron was built in 1902 by N. A. Johnson. The first landlord was Frank Liljeholm, then N. A. Johnson, and the present landlord is J. F. Arff. The second implement house was opened in the spring of 1901 by N. E. Larson and N. P. Swanson.



VIEW OF KIRON



VIEW OF SCHLESWIG

This institution had various ownerships and is now continued under the firm name of Larson & Turin. G. F. Schneider was the first barber, and he was followed by Morris Enright, Fred Horr, James Snyder, Glenn Dorothy, and in 1906 by L. C. Goodrich, the present proprietor. V. E. Michaelson established the first implement business in Old Kiron in 1907 and moved to New Kiron in 1899 and erected the concrete building which he now occupies, in 1908. R. L. Anderson was made section foreman in 1900 and still occupies that position.

The Green Bay Lumber Co. opened a lumber yard in Old Kiron when the railroad was being built in 1899 with Wm. Graham as manager. When the railroad was completed they moved their yard to the lots south of the depot where they continued business until the spring of 1903, when they bought lots where the present business is located. Mr. Graham was succeeded by C. D. Williams as manager in 1903, and continued as manager until he was succeeded by the present manager, C. C. Iversen, in the fall of 1907. In the fall of 1906, Dr. J. A. Matson, of Ida Grove, opened a second physician's office and sold his practice to Dr. W. A. Garner of Ida county in the spring of 1907. In the fall of 1910, Dr. F. A. Burrows sold his practice to Dr. W. A. Garner, who is now the only practicing physician. In the fall of 1906 C. J. Larson built the brick butcher shop and conducted a meat market until the fall of 1909, when he was succeeded by P. O. Walleson, who is now conducting the business. The building is owned by S. S. Stolt. The present town officers are: G. A. Norelius, mayor; N. P. Swanson, R. L. Anderson, C. J. Tellgren, J. A. Engberg, S. M. Sjogren, councilmen; J. E. Hoagland, clerk; W. A. Garner, treasurer; H. L. Ward, assessor; A. Sederberg, marshal.

The growth of Kiron has been steady and continuous. It is a neat, pretty village, with good live merchants and pleasant homes. At present it is one of the exceptional towns of Crawford county, in that it has no saloons. It is a Christian community and is fervent in its religious activities. The largest building in the city, and the one which is justly the pride of all its people, is the Swedish Baptist church.

This church was organized in August, 1869, with the following charter members: N. Lindberg, C. P. Frodig, H. Hallander, I. Michaelson, C. J. Star, A. Anderson, N. P. Erickson, James Anderson, V. Peterson, P. Carlson, J. Hooglund, Mrs. Back, Mrs. Frodig, Miss Hadda Holmberg (now Mrs. Duncan), Mrs. Erickson, Mrs. Hagglund and John A. Erickson. At the time of the organization, C. P. Frodig was installed as pastor, the services being held in the Star schoolhouse until 1876, at which time the first church building was erected at a cost of eighteen hundred dollars. The list of the pastors with dates of their service are as follows: August 16, 1869, to February 26, 1870, C. P. Frodig; March 5, 1870, to December 6, 1873, A. Norelius; December 6, 1873, to 1877, C. P. Frodig; March 31, 1877, to April, 1880, John Ring; October 1, 1881, to February 1, 1886, L. J. Ahlstrom; February, 1887, to May, 1895, E. O. Olson; May, 1895, to March, 1897, C. J. Chader; August, 1897, until April, 1903, A. P. Hanson; May 4, 1903, to July, 1903, John Johanson; August, 1903, to April 1, 1904, A. Berglund; April, 1904, to April 1, 1906, Gustaf Nyquist; May 20, 1906, to October, 1906, A. E. Lysell; December 1, 1906, to September 15, 1907, J. N. Soderstrom; October 1, 1907, to December

1, 1910, A. Lagerquist; and in January, 1911, the present pastor, Rev. Anton A. Anderson took charge of the parishioners. They now have one hundred and twenty-two members, with an excellent attendance and a bright outlook for the future. The present church was erected in 1908 at a cost of ten thousand, seven hundred, sixty-five dollars and fifty-four cents. The dedicatory exercises were held on December 5, 1908, at which time a large and appreciative congregation was present.

The Kiron fire department was organized September 4, 1903, with the mayor, F. A. Burrows, as chairman and W. J. Sandberg, as secretary. There were eighteen charter members. A Page chemical engine was bought at a cost of \$500, but this was sold upon the installation of water works in 1907. The fire pressure is excellent and the company is now equipped with hose cart and 600 feet of hose, and a hook and ladder cart. Since the organization of the fire department there have been but three fires and these have done but little damage. The Kiron fire department has membership in the Maple Valley Firemen's Association, and the present membership is now twenty-two. The present officers are: W. A. Garner, chairman; H. L. Ward, secretary; Wm. Paulson, treasurer; A. C. Hanson, steward; R. L. Anderson, foreman Hose Company No. 1; A. E. Benson, foreman Hook and Ladder Company No. 2; C. A. Dolk, chief; J. E. Hoaglund, assistant chief.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

NISHNABOTNY AND MANILLA.

Speaking of the severe winter of 1855-6 a correspondent to the Denison Review furnishes us with this reference to settlement in Nishnabotny township. The correspondent says: "Henry Custar had just finished a small cabin on the Nishnabotny when the cold commenced. His harvest consisted of some twelve bushels of buckwheat and a few bushels of corn. He was so situated that he could not get to the mill and had it not been for his wife's ingenuity, the family would hardly have lived through the winter. The corn she converted into hominy, and the buckwheat she ground in the coffee mill and by stinting the family a little she made the stock last until the close of the winter. This was the winter preceding the winter of the deep snow." Such seems to have been the humble and precarious beginning of what is now one of the most beautiful and best settled of our townships. The township is well watered by a branch of the Nishnabotny river and by numerous small streams. The name of the township is its only legacy from the Indian tribes. Nishnabotny is a corruption of the Otoe Indian name "Ni-sna-ba-te-na," which means "Creek where they make boats." Ni-sna-, creeks, ba-te, boats, na, usually or frequently. It would appear that the Otoes in their annual hunting expeditions usually found these streams flooded and were obliged to make skin boats to cross over. It was from this that the river received its name.

Nishnabotny was first a part of Milford township, which embraced the entire county. Next it was a part of Union township. In 1870 the new township of Washington was formed and Nishnabotny was a part of this.

It was not until June, 1872, that the township was named, but it remained a part of Washington township. It was about this time that a resident of the southern part of the county advertised in a Denison paper offering pasturage for stock and, as an evidence that the cattle would not be disturbed by settlers, said that the day before he had shot an elk and could do so almost at any time. In September, 1873, Nishnabotny was created as an independent township. The first election was held in the John Theobald schoolhouse and the money belonging to the township was turned over to the township officers. Robert Theobald and family, Henry Walker and family and John Slater and family were among the earliest residents of the township. They drove overland from Middlesbury, Wisconsin, arriving at Denison about June 1, 1871. Ten days later they moved

to the Nishnabotny, where they had purchased land. Upon their arrival they found two families in that part of the county: Dave Crusat and Jacob Weakline. There were four families living just over the line in Shelby county. These were the C. Barr, Morgan, Brown and Fish families. Robert Theobald located where Astor now stands, Henry Walker located in section 23 and Walkertown, an addition to Manilla was so platted from this farm. John Slater located on section 35, the house being located one-half mile south of Manilla, where it now stands. John Theobald came in the fall of '71 locating on what is now known as the Fred Saunders farm.

The first schoolhouse stood almost in the center of section 34, about one-half mile east of the present site of Astor.

In 1873 this schoolhouse was moved to the present site of James McCracken's home. The first election was held in October, 1873, and it was said that during the progress of this poll, all hands were forced to turn out and fight a prairie fire which was supposed to have been started by some hunter. This fire burned over many thousand acres, destroying grain and hay and much other property, but no homes or lives were lost. The fire was not checked until it reached the vicinity of Harlan.

John Theobald was the first school director and John Slater succeeded him. James Dunham arrived in the fall of 1871, and in the spring of 1873 Patrick McGrath arrived and settled on the present site of Manilla, for which he paid \$8 per acre. Denison was the trading point, Deer were common and elk were frequently seen, while the country abounded with black and gray wolves.

The first death recorded was that of a blacksmith named Holverson. He was an acquaintance of the Slater's and Walker's. Meeting them when they were in Denison trading, he was persuaded to move on to the Nishnabotny with them. Almost the first day of his arrival he was taken sick and died the same day. He was buried at Denison. The first landowner who died was Mr. James Dunham. He died in the fall of 1874 and was buried in the Astor cemetery.

Wm. Flint, Jr., came from Wisconsin in 1873, locating on section 13, and his parents came out in 1875. Church services were held in the schoolhouse on section 35, the preacher being an itinerant Methodist, affectionately known to the old settlers as "old Uncle Billy McGinnis." He was a typical circuit rider and old timers will remember gleefully that one of his hobbies was to pull off his coat and throw it in the corner while preaching. They will tell you that he was a very strong preacher and could be heard for miles around.

Other of the early families were those of G. D. Brokaw, Thomas Graham, — Dunn, — Southwick, Rockley Barber, — Schwartz, Charles Wenzel, — Dunbar, Charles Campbell.

The writer of this history assisted his brother in taking the census of Nishnabotny township in 1880 and he remembers with pleasure the hospitable homes of the Swan's, Bidlack's, Saunder's, Theobald's, Barber's and others. The census of 1872 gives the total population of Nishnabotny township as 68, thirty of whom were males, and thirteen were voters. The acreage of improved lands is given as 597. The yield of wheat was 992 bushels, of corn 7,840 bushels. A Nishnabotny correspondent giving the neighborhood news in March, 1874, mentions H. H. Bachert, J. H. Walker, G. W. Thompson as having been elected



MAIN STREET SCENE, MANILA

school directors. Among others mentioned are Jim Skirving who was said to be recovering from an accident in which three of his ribs were broken, Prof. Slagg, Mr. John Slater and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schwartz, who are facetiously said to be entertaining a young lady visitor who expects to stay for sometime. In June, '74, the following description is given of Nishnabotny.

"A few miles southeast of Denison lies a very large body of most excellent slightly rolling land through which the Nishnabotny runs. But a few years ago—only about four—there were but very few farms opened. About this time Mr. Lyon commenced opening his farm and there was not another house within a number of miles. He was the pioneer of that neighborhood and today he is surrounded by many fine farms and among the number are some of the best in the country. Mr. Inman has a farm of 320 acres, all of which with the exception of a few acres is under cultivation. On his place are fine buildings, an excellent windmill and pump for raising water for his stock, all the modern improvements necessary for the cultivation of such a large farm. North of him on as handsome a piece of land as is to be found anywhere, is the farm and commodious residence of George W. Heston, and it gave us pleasure to notice that his crops appear to be growing finely and that weeds were scarce. Near at hand is the farm of A. Dempster, Esq., and under an excellent state of cultivation. Also noticed the thrifty farms of Messrs. Woodward, McCormick, Bidlack, Zimmerman and many others with whose owners we were not acquainted. In a visit of only an hour or two it is naturally impossible to glean all the interesting data connected with a neighborhood and in this sketch we are perfectly well aware that not even half justice has been done to this thriving neighborhood."

The township officers in 1874 were: Clerk, J. Skirving; trustees, C. Schwartz, W. G. Thompson, Henry Walker; assessor, Dan McGrath; justices, John Theobald and Rockley Barber; constables, H. H. Bachert and Ad Thompson; road supervisors, Thomas Graham and Ad Thompson.

In 1875 Assessor McGrath found the population to be: males, 44; females, 54; total, 98. Number of voters, 25. This township had the distinction of being the only one wherein the females exceeded the males. At this time the population of the county was 5,229; the number of voters being 1,068.

That the people were patriotic is shown by the fact that in June, 1875, a meeting was called to order by Mr. Robert Theobald for the purpose of planning a celebration which was duly enjoyed the fourth of July.

Life in Nishnabotny pursued the wonted way of the rest of the county, meeting the difficulties of cultivation, growing in wealth and population with every year. The next important event was the building of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway through the southern part of the county in 1880. The first survey was made in the dead of winter and before the snow was off in the spring the permanent survey was made, and in June the actual work of grading commenced. The road was finished in the spring of 1881 and trains were running on regular schedules by fall. This road established two towns in Crawford county. One at Aspinwall in Iowa township, and one at Astor, in Nishnabotny. At an old settler's picnic some years ago Mr. Morris McHenry contributed the following valuable bit of history concerning the location of Manilla.

"I do not suppose many are aware that the chief engineer of the Panama canal once walked through Crawford county at the head of a corps of engineers hunting a route for the Sioux City branch of the Milwaukee Railroad and that we are indebted to him for several miles more of railroad and for the town of Manilla with its round house and the many employes that are needed at the junction of a great continental line as the Sioux City branch is coming to be—Manilla ought to place a life-size statue of Mr. Stevens on the top of her round house. The Sioux City branch was called the Defiance line all along during the preliminary work. The company had run several lines from Defiance to Sioux City and had Mr. Stevens running the locating line and putting in the curves for the permanent line with Defiance as the junction point. The change to Manilla came about in this way—I met the surveying party as they were coming down the Paradise creek on Andy Bell's farm, and had quite a lengthy visit with Mr. Stevens, in which he told me of having his boys in the water for hours at a time nearly up to their arms on the Missouri bottom. Finally we got to talking about his line to Defiance. I told him I thought I could make him out a practicable line that would strike the main line some nine or ten miles east of Defiance and make him a much shorter line to Chicago. He said he wished I would do so. We also talked of saving about one-half mile of line at the mouth of the Paradise creek. Their preliminary lines had all been run around by George Bell's house one-half mile south of Robert Bell's. I told him I thought he could make the turn at Robert Bell's and run in front of Thomas Rae's and easily get down to a grade crossing over the Northwestern. This was Saturday evening. Mr. Stevens and party stayed over Sunday at Dow City. I stayed at my farm and Monday morning as I came up to Denison, I met Stevens and party just as they had finished a preliminary over the branch. He was well pleased with his line and went back and ran the locating line where the road is built today. I gave him my map of the Manilla line. He located the line to Defiance and having communicated with the head officials got orders to run a line to Manilla or rather to the place where Manilla is now. He camped with his party in Buck Grove by the house of Al Harkness, where fuel was plenty. Harkness came to Denison and told me that Stevens was about done. I of course was curious to see what kind of a line they had got. So I drew another map showing all the sections covering his Defiance and the new Manilla line. I sent it to Stevens with a letter and said: 'I dare you to mark both of your lines on this map and return it to me, if you do I will speak a good word for you to your best girl.' In a day or so I got my map back with both lines carefully marked on it and a letter to me saying 'that he was just like he was when a boy and would never take a dare and as for the best girl, he had already got her.' Stevens ran a preliminary line through Denison and near Battle Creek, but found the Sioux City end of it impracticable, as he afterwards told me."

The town of Astor started under very promising conditions and bade fair to become a lively village. Numerous lines of trade were opened and the town was of such importance that Denison recognized its value by establishing what was known as the "Astor short cut" road. The people of Astor had just about decided to incorporate when the Sioux City branch of the Milwaukee was surveyed and it was determined to start the extension from a point about two miles north-

east of Astor and the new town was named Manilla. The people of Astor accepted the inevitable and a larger part of the town was moved to the new location.

MANILLA.

The first ordinance fixing the boundaries of Manilla was passed November 21, 1887, a few days after the first election was held. The first mayor was I. W. Collamore, and the first clerk C. G. Heifner. Those who have held the office of mayor, in their order, are the following, I. W. Collamore, J. L. Bidlack, M. J. Collins, C. V. Campbell, W. J. Campbell, P. C. Gray, M. J. McNertney, J. H. Tryon, Frank A. Brown, C. S. Dempster. Mr. C. A. Sykes has been clerk for a number of years. The present council consists of G. H. Baker, C. L. Wilhite, E. M. Smith, J. H. Tryon, R. Rasmussen, Edw. Theobald is treasurer and Cicero Morgan assessor.

Manilla is a well built town with a number of exceptionally fine business blocks, good churches and public buildings, very pretty residences, good cement walks and extensive railroad yards. It is now the second town in Crawford county as to population and volume of business, while the promise of the future can barely be said to be second to that of Denison. Not only is it surrounded by a very rich agricultural country affording good trade, but it is a place of constantly increasing importance as a railroad point. As the head of the Sioux City division of the Milwaukee, it has been the home of a large number of railroad men and their families, there being at this time upwards of one hundred railroad employes living in the city. A round house of twelve stalls has been located in Manilla for many years together with car repair shops, coaling station, eating house, night and day switch engines and other adjuncts of a railroad center. The extension of the Milwaukee line to the coast means much to this Crawford county city, as nearly all of this vast business will pass through its gates. This will mean more train crews and more workmen of different kinds. The increase of traffic will doubtless in the near future necessitate the double tracking of the Milwaukee from Chicago to Manilla, and it is a question of but a few years before a southeastern line will be built connecting the Milwaukee at Manilla with St. Louis and Kansas City. Manilla occupies an important strategic position on the Milwaukee and if these improvements are made, as already planned, there is every reason to believe that in the next ten years Manilla will be a thriving city of from three to five thousand inhabitants.

Whether this much to be desired consummation shall be reached or not, the citizens of Manilla have shown their grasp of the situation by doing thoroughly and well those things which help to build a city. There is a flourishing commercial club, which has already done much good for the town, and which has many more things in prospect. A city hall was erected in 1894 at a cost of three thousand dollars. The water works were commenced in 1892 and have been extended from time to time as necessary, until at present more than fifteen thousand dollars has been expended. A gas plant for city lighting was installed in 1902 at an expense of seven thousand dollars. The school building is adequate

and well built. There are several miles of brick and cement walks. Main street is equipped with cement gutters and every crossing in the town is of cement. The enterprise of the city has been shown in the numerous successful public exhibitions and entertainments which it has carried out and this year the city plans a great home-coming week to celebrate its twenty-fifth birthday.

During the early days of Manilla's history there was something of that lawlessness which usually accompanies the influx of a large floating population. Since that time Manilla has become an orderly and law-abiding community, of which its citizens are justly proud. During all the course of its history the only exceptional matter on its criminal docket was that of a daring express robbery which occurred in 1901, when a small express safe was stolen bodily from the station platform and something like \$2,500 in money and valuables was lost. At this time the town was thrown into a state of great excitement, bloodhounds were placed on the trail, but no conviction resulted. We cannot speak too highly of the enterprise of Manilla people, and of the very flattering prospect which seems certain to open to them as a railroad center.

Manilla has a well patronized and a well built telephone exchange, owned by local capital. Among its business houses are the following: Four general stores, two meat markets, three restaurants, one variety store, one furniture store, one implement house, two hardware stores, one harness shop, one saloon, two drug stores, two livery barns, three eating houses, three hotels, three lumber yards, one flour mill, cement block factory, two garages, two blacksmiths, tailor, photographer, two millinery stores, two firms of stock buyers, moving picture show, three physicians, one dentist and one lawyer. The city is about to vote upon a franchise for an electric light and power plant, and this needed improvement, the city will doubtless have in the near future.

The Post Office at Manilla was established at the time of the opening of the town. Prior to that time the farming community had received its mail from Astor, Aspinwall, Denison and Vail. The first postmaster was Mr. G. D. Brokaw, who had the office in the then newly-built drug store, occupied by Allen and Hammond. He was followed by John McCracken, who moved the office to the present site of the Sykes hardware store. Under the Cleveland administration Theo. Kuhl was postmaster, and he erected for the use of the office, a building on the present site of Carnahan's restaurant. After four years Mr. Kuhl was succeeded by W. B. Barstow and the office was removed to the location in the rear of the First National Bank, where it remained until Jan., 1909, when the present fine brick edifice was erected especially for Post Office purposes.

Manilla can now boast of as fine a Post Office and equipment as can be found in any town of its size in the state. The office is roomy and finely furnished, and well fitted both for the convenience of the public and the working force.

On April 1, 1905, Mr. Barstow was succeeded by Roscoe C. Saunders, the present efficient postmaster, who is now serving his second term. The receipts for the year closing March 31, 1911, were \$3,942.50, an excellent volume of business for a city of its size. The receipts for the year ending in 1905 were \$2,313.86, showing a substantial increase.



MANILLA HIGH SCHOOL



MAIN STREET, MANILLA

THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

Manilla lodge, number 179, Knights of Pythias, was organized October 6, 1887. The following is the first roster of the lodge, A. L. Barrett, P. C.; J. W. Lindsay, C. C.; C. G. Heifner, V. C.; A. M. Reiter, P.; W. H. Humphrey, M. of F.; C. V. Campbell, M. of E.; L. Green, M. of A.; T. W. Hoyt, K. of R. & S.; C. E. Yates, I. G.; C. M. Hammon, O. G.; M. M. Blake, Evan Davis, J. L. SinClair, Trustees. Members, H. J. Coppock, K. E. McCracken, Geo. Mills, J. J. Rouchert, H. H. Plumb, Jerry Anderson, James Horton, C. A. Saunders, Robert Ropp, H. E. Farquar, Eral Franklin, Albert Readout, F. A. Bennett, J. B. Gardner and E. A. Packett. This is the oldest order in Manilla and is in a most prosperous condition. It has been faithful to its obligations to care for the sick and needy and its castle hall has been the scene of many of Manilla's most memorable merry makers and social gatherings. The lodge has lost the following members by death, D. W. Shaw, G. W. Saunders, C. J. Ferry, A. C. Beers, Thomas Graham. Among the prominent members who have taken active part in the lodge work may be mentioned C. A. Sykes, J. Hird, F. L. VanSlyke, P. C. Gray, A. J. Barrow, E. C. Baker, W. S. Moore and A. H. Willis. The castle hall is located in the Gardner block and has the finest lodge rooms in the city. The present officers are Clarence Krough, C. C.; C. H. Leferts, V. C.; Frank Brown, P.; P. C. Gray, M. of W.; A. H. Willis, K. of R. & S.; R. C. Jackson, M. of E.; W. S. Moore, M. of F.; A. J. Barrow, M. at A.; E. C. Baker, I. G.

Closely identified with the Pythian lodge is the organization of the Rathbone sisters and nearly all the Knights belong to this local order which has proven an important adjunct to the Pythian lodge. The Manilla lodge has always been represented at the Grand Lodge with the exception of one year. Among those who have represented Manilla in the Grand lodges are F. L. VanSlyke, George Hird, W. S. Moore, I. Hird, C. V. Campbell, T. E. Dyson, J. L. Bidlack, Luther Green, I. B. Alfred, C. A. Sykes, J. C. Ruby, D. W. Shaw, and Edward Schran.

KENWORTHY TEMPLE, NO. 25, PYTHIAN SISTERS, MANILLA.

By Abbie Cook, Secretary.

Kenworthy Temple, No. 25, P. S., was organized June 16, 1892, by G. C. Carrie Kenworthy, of Perry, Iowa, with the following charter members: Abbie Cook, M. E. C.; Mrs. N. Brown, E. S.; Mrs. J. L. Bidlack, E. J.; Mrs. Carrie Franklin, M.; Miss Arza Brown, M. of R. & C.; Mrs. C. H. Lefferts, M. of F.; Mrs. Effie Gardner, P. of T.; Mrs. Jas. Plank, G. of O. F.; Mrs. Mary Hird, P. C.; Carrie Barber, Mrs. Willis, Mrs. Ferry, Mrs. A. A. Packard, Mrs. Reiter, Mrs. Barrett, Mrs. Dutt.

Since being organized we have initiated 63 Sisters and 56 Knights, of whom we have now in full membership 34 Sisters and 21 Knights. Death has claimed one Sister, Mrs. Debbie Sykes and one Knight, D. W. Shaw.

Since our organization we have had many hard places to pass over, also many, many happy times together. Our K.'s of P. have been to us brothers

in the true meaning of the word, and we have tried to show our great appreciation of their help in every possible way. Never in our 20 years of existence have we had a cent of rent, janitor fee, lights, fuel or any such expenses to meet. All having been furnished by the K.'s of P., to whom we owe a lasting debt of gratitude.

We are a "band of sisters united by the holy ties of sisterly love."

The two yearly occasions where we put forth every effort to do our best is at our Annual Banquet to our Knights, and at our Memorial Service.

The following list includes our present officers: Mrs. Lolo Morgan, M. E. C.; Mrs. Carrie Brown, E. S.; Mrs. Mary Hird, E. J.; Mrs. Lizzie Lefferts, M.; Mrs. Cassie Baker, M. of F.; Miss Abbie Cook, M. of R. & C.; Mrs. Effie Smith, P. of T.; Mrs. Mattie Willis, G. of O. T.; Mrs. Mildred Alfred, P. C.

GOLDEN LEAF LODGE, NO. 595, A. F. & A. M.,

Golden Leaf Lodge, No. 595, A. F. & A. M., was duly organized February 5, 1906, with the following officers and members: J. C. Richter, Worshipful Master; W. H. Hart, Senior Warden; F. A. Jackson, Junior Warden; W. S. Moore, Treasurer; L. A. Carnahan, Secretary; W. H. Crabbs, Senior Deacon; C. S. Dempster, Junior Deacon; G. H. Baker, Senior Steward; G. R. Hird, Junior Steward; and J. P. Barber, Tyler, and members, T. W. Bell, J. F. Carnahan, F. L. Chamberlin, R. C. Saunders and M. Simmerman; total membership of fifteen.

The Lodge now has a membership of forty-nine and is governed by the following officers: G. H. Baker, Worshipful Master; Alva Milligan, Senior Warden; H. W. Boeck, Junior Warden; Isaac Hird, Treasurer; M. C. Sutton, Secretary; W. H. Brockelsby, Senior Deacon; Peter Johnson, Junior Deacon; W. F. Boeck, Senior Steward; G. J. Disburg, Junior Steward and J. P. Barber, Tyler.

Stated meetings are held on Monday evening on or before the full moon at 8:00 o'clock P. M.

Manilla chapter, number 408, of the Order of Eastern Star was chartered Dec. 27, 1906, with the following charter members: Mrs. Hattie Richter, Mrs. Minnie Ruby, Mrs. Ella Baker, Mrs. Bessie Carnahan, Mrs. Blanche Stone, Mrs. Lolo Morgan, Mrs. Margaret Brockelsby, Mrs. Fannie Moore, Mrs. Addie Bell, Mrs. Mollie Dempster, Miss Grace Gardner, Miss Millie Milligan, Miss Bessie Gardner, Mr. C. Morgan, Mr. J. P. Barber, Mr. W. S. Moore, Mr. J. C. Ruby, Mr. M. C. Stone, Mr. J. F. Carnahan, Mr. C. S. Dempster, Mr. W. H. Hart, Mrs. W. H. Hart, and Mrs. Lucy Draper. The first officers were Mrs. Hart, Worthy Matron; Mr. C. Morgan, Worthy Patron; Mrs. Minnie Ruby, Associate Matron; Mrs. Lucy Draper, Secretary; Mrs. Ella Baker, Treasurer; Mrs. Bessie Carnahan, Conductress; Mrs. Blanche Stone, Associate Conductress; Miss Grace Gardner, Adah; Miss Millie Milligan, Ruth; Mrs. Lolo Morgan, Esther; Mrs. Margaret Brockelsby, Martha; Mrs. Fannie Moore, Electa; Mrs. Addie Bell, Warder; Mr. J. P. Barber, Sentinel; Mrs. Mollie Dempster, Chaplain; Miss Bessie Gardner, Marshal. The present officers are Mrs. Bertha Disburg, Worthy Matron; Mr. Herman Boeck, Worthy Patron;



ROUND HOUSE AT MANILLA



CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE & ST. PAUL DAM. MANILLA

Mrs. Lucy Draper, Associate Matron; Mrs. Louise Schnoon, Secretary; Mrs. Mary Hird, Treasurer; Mrs. Anna Boeck, Chaplain; Mrs. Bessie Carnahan, Adah; Mrs. Stella Sutton, Ruth; Mrs. Minnie Boeck, Esther; Mrs. Mollie Dempster, Martha; Mrs. Ella Baker, Electa; Miss Bessie Gardner, Warder; Mr. J. P. Barber, Sentinel.

None of the members have been taken away by death and the present membership is 45. The Chapter is at present in a very prosperous condition. It has just moved into its new hall, which is much larger and more pleasant in every way than the old one. With its present set of officers and good membership the chapter is looking forward to a very successful future.

BOTNA VALLEY LODGE, NO. 312, I. O. O. F.

Botna Valley Lodge, No. 312, of the Odd Fellows order, was founded at Manilla, February 24, 1888. The charter members were James H. Smith, F. A. Jackson, Frank Longnecker, J. H. Tryon, David Hath, W. L. Webster and A. L. Barret. The first officers were, F. A. Jackson, N. G.; Frank Longnecker, V. G.; J. H. Smith, Secretary. The present membership is twenty, and since its organization the lodge has lost by death, the following members: B. Sachra, W. Vennink, David Hath, W. S. Roderick, D. W. Shaw. The present officers of the lodge are, W. B. Bliven, N. G.; W. C. Wicks, V. G.; J. H. Tryon, Recording Secretary; John Gleiser, Financial Secretary.

FOREST CAMP, NO. 195, W. O. W., MANILLA.

This camp of the great order of Woodmen of the World, was organized January 28, 1898, with 18 charter members. The Camp had at one time a membership of 37, but through removal and through other causes, the membership is now but 15. The camp holds no regular meetings, the business being conducted by C. A. Sykes, Consul Commander, and Edward Theobald, Clerk. The names of the charter members are as follows: J. B. Gardner, O. T. Woodyard, W. M. Hill, F. A. Miller, W. B. Seymore, A. S. Weaver, Ed Grimes, John Grage, F. A. Jackson, Edward Theobald, J. J. McDermott, Byron Bartlett, L. P. Ihrie, A. H. Willis, John Carey, Patrick Carey, J. H. Knight, W. M. Dougherty.

MODERN WOODMEN CAMP, NO. 2843.

Modern Woodmen Camp No. 2843, of Manilla, was installed by Deputy Head Council, Smith Parmenter, of Jamaica, Iowa, March 28, 1895, the first officers being: F. J. Slater, Council; B. F. Lawson, Advisor; J. C. Dyson, Banker; and E. E. Nichols, Clerk. There were twelve charter members, namely: J. C. Dyson, W. A. Gardner, John Gleiser, Charles W. Hohle, James R. Kerr, John Sorensen, B. F. Lawson, Dr. J. B. Gardner, John McNertney, E. E. Nichols, Peter Peterson and F. J. Slater.

The organization has been a thriving one from the beginning and now has one hundred and nineteen members, making it one of the strong orders of the county. Members of the fraternity attribute much of its early success to the

efforts of Neighbor A. C. Beers, who went to his reward some seven years ago, also the untiring zeal of Neighbor Charles Schroeder, who for ten years was their camp clerk, and whose activities in its behalf only ceased upon his removal, to Hornick, Iowa, where he was offered a more advantageous position. The lodge felt his loss keenly as he was one of their most popular members, and in honor and appreciation of his good work a banquet was tendered him when he left, at which he was presented with a large Morris chair. The present officers are: E. M. Smith, Council; A. H. Ivey, Advisor; F. A. Brown, Banker; and Thomas A. Moore, Clerk.

THE ROYAL NEIGHBORS.

Clover Leaf camp, number 4503, of the Royal Neighbors of America, was instituted June 2, 1906. The charter members were C. H. Crakes, Minnie Crakes, Mary Gardner, Helen Riggs, Sada Dowler, Ida Kestner, C. E. Slagg, Lucy Draper, J. J. McDermott, Cora Slagg, D. W. E. Draper, Margaret McDermott, E. R. Steele, Mary Eberley, Mollie McMahon, Jennie Steele, Lynette Freelove, Mate Reed, Katie Stoker. The first officers of the camp were, Mrs. Dr. Draper, Oracle; Mrs. Helen Riggs, Recorder; Mrs. Cora Slagg, Receiver. At present the camp, which was organized by Bertha Severson of Moorehead, Iowa, has a membership of eighteen. The camp was represented at the state camp in Des Moines in 1908 by Mrs. G. L. Riggs, who also represented the camp at Cedar Rapids in 1911. The present officers are, Mrs. Mollie McMahon, Oracle, and Mrs. Ed. M. Smith, Recorder. The camp is in flourishing condition and has to its credit many delightful entertainments in honor of the Woodmen.

THE WESTMINSTER CIRCLE.

The Westminster circle is an organization for young ladies of the Presbyterian church. There are about twenty members and the club holds delightful meetings every fortnight, at which Bible study is followed by a social hour filled with fancy work and refreshments. The dues paid by the members are used for the benefit of church work.

THE KAPPA YEATA CLUB.

This is another social club among the young ladies. It was organized in July, 1909, the first president being DeVeda Mills and the secretary Mary VanMeter. The functions of the club consist of social evening meetings, picnics and excursions and the object is to improve the social life of the young people. The present officers are Elsie Gardner, President; Ida Breckenridge, Secretary.

CHAPTER XL.

SCHLESWIG AND THE GERMANS.

Shining in the warm May sunshine like a clear cut, beautiful gem, upon the bosom of the prairie, lies the town of Schleswig. Brilliant with the hues of many colored flowers, bright with lawns and neat-trimmed hedges, a little city of beautiful homes and well-kept streets, Schleswig may well boast itself as being the most uniformly beautiful of any of the new towns of Iowa. The fact that it is a new town and that its residents come almost entirely from a class of people who take great pride in home, who build substantially, and who care for that which they have, combine to make Schleswig as neat and pretty a village as can be found.

Round about it lie farms of unparalleled richness. Lands valued from \$150.00 to \$200.00 per acre. Farms upon which stand commodious and well built homes, many of which have all the conveniences of city dwellings. Schleswig is one of the richest towns of its size in Iowa. It has two banks having deposits in the neighborhood of \$600,000. As a shipping point, it is the second best of its size of the entire North Western system. It is almost entirely a German village. It is said that there are but two distinctly English speaking homes in its population. The fact that it can boast of such beautiful homes, such large and enterprising business institutions, such a well conducted, orderly and well behaved community, so many substantial civic improvements, is the best possible proof of the excellence of the German American as a home maker and citizen.

Schleswig was laid out along the line of the Wall Lake and Mondamin branch of the North Western railway in the year 1899. While in one way it is an entirely new city, it still may be considered as a descendant of the old post office and trading point known as Morgan and later as Hohenzollern, and still further one may trace its ancestry to those sturdy and stalwart Sons of the Fatherland, who came to Crawford County from Scott and Clinton counties or direct from the Fatherland. It was the magnificent farms which they had established which doubtless prompted the Northwestern road to build through that section and provide them with better market facilities.

The early emigration to Morgan and Otter Creek townships was largely promoted by the Iowa railroad land company, of which Mr. Wm. Familton was the enterprising agent. We remember having heard him say, in later days, "When

I sold prairie lands to those German farmers at from \$5.00 to \$7.50, I used to drive back home feeling almost ashamed of myself for having played them for suckers. Now—they are rich, and I—well, I wish I could buy that land back at \$7.50 per acre.” Among the earliest settlers those coming in 1872 were Nic Lafrentz, Claus Mundt, Fritz Rath, and Geo. Lass. In 1873 the settlement was increased by the coming of Hans Brodersen, Claus Bielenberg, Peter Hamann, J. C. Petersen, Fritz Putzier, Chris Putzier, C. F. Dahns, Peter Nielsen, Chris Jacobs, Henry Hollmann, John Sievers, C. J. Jensen, and others. In 1874 the new comers were Gottlieb Else, Henry Miller, Julius Bumann, Jurgen Grill, Geo. Riessen, Claus Riessen, Lorenz Petersen and Adolph Rickers. In 1875 came Geo. Suckstorf, August Wittenberg, Andrew Kahler, Herman Heicksen, August Suckstorf, Hans Lohse, John Bendixen, William Carstens, and J. C. Holling.

This is but a partial list of the early comers but it contains the names of many who are still honored citizens of our county or who, having lived goodly lives, are still cherished in the memories of their friends and descendants. These men started with meagre equipment, a team, a set of harness, a wagon, a cow, and a few dollars was all they had. “I came here in 1875, with \$300.00; in 1877 I did not have a dollar, now I have four hundred acres, worth \$175.00 per acre, all paid for” is what one old settler tells us. It is a testimony of another that he purchased his first eighty from the railroad land company at \$7.50 per acre, paying just \$10.00 down, now he has the land, and it is worth \$150.00 per acre. These pioneers experienced many hardships. The crops in the early '70s were poor and prices were low. One man writes that he threshed just seven bushels of wheat to the acre and that it was worth but forty cents per bushel. The same writer tells that they used to cut their fence posts and cord wood from the woods near Deloit, and that he remembers attending a funeral in 1878 and that there was not a buggy in the procession, all using lumber wagons and most of the farmers using a board for the seat. Young men think they have no opportunity, sagely continues the old timer, but I would rather owe five thousand dollars now, than to have owed five hundred dollars in 1876.

It was from such men as these that the town of Schleswig sprang. The town lots were sold in the spring of 1899 and it is an evidence of the confidence which people had in Schleswig's future that the lot upon which the Baxter-Reed and Co. bank now stands, sold for \$600.00. The writer well remembers the sale of these lots. The stakes out in the corn field designating where the future streets, business and residence lots were to be, the crowd of eager purchasers, and the hospitable homes in the neighborhood thrown open to the hungry buyers and spectators. Viewing Schleswig to-day, after the lapse of such a few years, its growth is marvelous. One of the first store buildings was that of Mr. Juer-gen Schroeder, which was moved from its old location at the post office called Hohenzollern. Brick and frame business houses were rapidly erected and from the very start, Schleswig became an important business and shipping center. Later, attention was paid to the building of homes and this was so well done that we doubt if any other city can boast so high an average in its residence districts.

The city was incorporated in February, 1900, H. J. Boock being the first mayor. The other officers of the new town were, S. W. Myers, Clerk; Theo.



GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHLESWIG



THEODORE ROHWER'S RESIDENCE, SCHLESWIG

Rohwer, Treasurer; and the Councilmen, Juergen Schroeder, Dr. Schneller, N. vonDohren, Detlef Wieck, Claus Gottburg and G. B. Fehmerling.

Others who have held the office of mayor were C. C. Walters, H. C. Moeller, and O. L. Russell. The official directory at present is, Aug. Schultz, Mayor; Aug. Rickert, Clerk; P. G. Hollander, Treasurer; and A. F. Stegemann, A. P. Hollander, Aug. Braase, F. C. Spahn and Juergen Schroeder, Councilmen. The population is five hundred.

In the same year the Schleswig opera company was formed and a building for public entertainments was erected at the cost of \$6,000. The schools were not neglected and the town now has a fine school house containing four rooms, the property costing upwards of \$6,500.00. Mr. Theo. Rohwer was president of the school board from the year 1901 to 1909, and again from 1911 to the present time. We learn from him that during the history of the school it has not been found necessary to suspend a single pupil. For further particulars as to the schools the reader is referred to the chapter on the schools of the county.

The problem of water supply and fire protection proved a vexatious one to the city for a number of years. During its brief history, approximately \$25,000 has been expended for its water supply. In 1910 over \$11,000 was thus expended and the city now has an excellent deep well, affording apparently an inexhaustible water supply, a pumping station and stand pipe, reservoir 100 feet high, with a capacity of 65,000 gallons. Fire protection is afforded by a splendid company of firemen under the command of C. J. Claussen, fire chief, and P. C. Hollander, secretary. The fire company was organized in 1900 and has 20 members, being in two companies of which John Berndt and Henry E. Buck are foremen. The apparatus consists of two hose carts with 1,200 feet of hose, and the water mains are so extensive that every building in the city is provided with fire protection.

Schleswig also boasts a gas plant by which the streets and many buildings are lighted. There are few board side walks in the town, but there are several miles of well laid cement walks which surround as pretty lawns as can be found in Iowa. The telephone is a local institution and has upwards of 350 subscribers. As we have stated, Schleswig is one of the best shipping points of its size in Iowa. During the first six years of its existence, not more than 25 carloads of corn were shipped out and hundreds were shipped in. This well indicates the chief industry, which is the production of live stock and it is from this industry that the surrounding country has grown rich. To illustrate the value of Schleswig as a shipping point, we would say, that during the year 1910, John Ehler, who is but one of the market buyers, shipped 185 cars of live stock, of this there were 150 cars of hogs containing 10,190 head and weighing 2,461,680 pounds, an average of 242 pounds per head. There were thirty-five cars of cattle, containing 710 head, weighing 775,120 and averaging 1,092 pounds. This single buyer paid for live stock at Schleswig during the year 1910, the handsome sum of \$242, 774.43. These figures speak more loudly than any words of praise as to the importance of Schleswig and the prosperity of the surrounding country.

Business in Schleswig is represented by one elevator, three lumber yards, three general stores, two implement houses, two hardware stores, one furniture store, which claims, we believe with justice, to be the largest in either Ida or

Crawford counties, two harness shops, one cigar factory, two meat markets, two banks, millinery store, clothing store, two drug stores, two hotels, one newspaper, one livery stable, garage, pool hall, bowling alley, moving picture show, two physicians, one dentist and four saloons.

It is another boast of Schleswig that while in some more American communities, the existence of four saloons might cause lawlessness, the orderliness of the German citizen makes the presence of a lawyer unnecessary and unprofitable and the peace of the community is seldom broken. Certainly judging from the standard of happy, well kept and beautiful homes, good business enterprises and city pride, Schleswig holds a high place among the towns of Iowa.

The religious interests are represented by the Evangelical Lutheran church which has a substantial church edifice and parsonage, Rev. Wetzler being the pastor in charge. The Schleswig Leader, edited by Mr. Vaughn, is a newsy issue, which receives excellent advertising patronage. The social side of life is represented by three orders, Modern Woodmen of America, I. O. O. F., and Sons of Herman. The Schleswig camp, number 8087, M. W. A., was established May 12, 1900. The chapter members were as follows: J. W. Erelewine, H. M. Hoelring, F. D. Naeve, M. R. Hueschen, G. Lyden, J. D. Naeve, C. Kruse, H. Kohlbaum, F. E. Boylan, C. A. Spottswood, W. J. Bazark, Henry Naeve, Wm. Gronland, Aug. Rickert, Sam Fleeger, Alfred Miller, D. Wohler, A. H. Kuhlman, C. A. Summers, H. F. Wieck, Niels Kock, H. C. Hansen, D. Wieck, Chas. Miller. The first officers were: Jos. Jerwas, V. C.; Henry Naeve, Worthy Advisor; C. Kruse, Banker; Theo. Rohwer, Clerk; J. D. Naeve, Escort; A. H. Kuhlman, Watchman; C. A. Spottswood, Sentry; Dr. F. A. Burrows, Physician; Mr. Hueschmen and Aug. Rickert, Managers.

The present officers are: Peter Timmsen, V. C.; Henry Bergendahl, W. A.; August Rickert, Banker; Theo. Rohwer, Clerk; Chas. Miller, Escort; H. G. Miller, Sentry; Dr. W. H. Schultz, Physician; Henry Naeve, Theo. Munster, Nick Naeve, Managers; Robt. Naeve, Chief Forester.

The camp has lost three members by death, Henry Bendizen, H. F. Wieck and Jacob Petersen. The present number is 84 and the camp is in flourishing financial condition, being able to assist its members in sickness or in need. The camp has purchased what is known as the Woodman park, a beautiful park at the edge of the city, in which 200 trees have been planted and which in the future is expected to afford a beautiful recreation ground for the entire city.

SONS OF HERMAN LODGE, NO. 17.

This is another strong social organization which was instituted April 22, 1900, the charter members being Wm. Gronland, August Rickert, C. W. Christiansen, August Braase, B. Petersen, Herman Boock, Henry Hahn, A. J. Boock, Henry Krohnke and Juergen Schroeder. The first officers were: A. J. Boock, President; C. W. Christiansen, Vice President; W. M. Gronland, Secretary; and Juergen Schroeder, Treasurer.

On January 1, 1911, the lodge had a membership of 52. It is in a splendid financial condition and a sick benefit of \$4.00 per week is paid to its members.



CHICAGO & NORTHWESTERN STATION, SCHLESWIG

The present officers are: John Jepsen, President; Matt Lorenzen, Vice President; Bernard Andresen, Secretary; August Graase, Treasurer.

PRETORIA LODGE, NO. 696, I. O. O. F.

This is the name of a local branch of the great Odd Fellows Fraternity. Pretoria lodge was organized May 12, 1902. The charter members were: John Pump, Adolf Cook, F. W. Gigax, Theo. Rohwer, Hans D. Baeth, W. G. Gronland, C. L. Boll, Claus Gottberg, Chris Kruse, Wm. Schmidt, J. D. Naeve, H. C. Hansen, Chris Schnoor, Julius Quistorf and Dr. R. Fuester.

The lodge organized with the following officers: John Pump, N. G.; Adolf Cook, V. G.; Theo. Rohwer, Secretary; F. W. Gigax, Treasurer.

The present membership is 43 and the officers now in power are: Edward Reimer, N. G.; Peter Timmsen, V. G.; Siegfried Ketelsen, Secretary; B. S. Andresen, Treasurer; Claus Gottberg, District Deputy.

CHAPTER XLI.

UNION TOWNSHIP AND DOW CITY.

In the earliest days of our county history, there were three distinct zones of settlement, at Mason's Grove, at Denison and in Union township. The settlement of Union township began as an overflow from Galland's grove, in the northern part of Shelby county. The first settler of whom we have record was Frank Rudd, who built a cabin and moved his family to a location in what is now known as lower North Grove. Rudd was a successful hunter and trapper and an expert in tanning deer hides and was the founder of the Rudd family, which has taken such prominent place in the annals of Union township.

For the early history of this township, we are greatly indebted to Mrs. M. A. Bruner, daughter of the well known pioneer, S. J. Comfort. Mrs. Bruner read, before various old settlers' picnics, interesting papers relative to the old settlers of this township and from these we quote. Mrs. Bruner says: "Soon after Mr. Rudd's coming, James M. Butler settled in upper North Grove. This was in March, 1851. He settled on section 29, his being the second cabin in the township. He brought his family with him, determined to make this a permanent home. Soon after his coming, however, the settlement was raided by Indians. Mrs. McColl, the mother-in-law, attempted to defend the property of the little home and the Indian raiders slapped her and took what they pleased. This same band of Sioux raided the cabin occupied by Stratton Thurston and a Mr. Carpenter who had settled in Lost Grove. At Mr. Carpenter's the Indians met resistance in the shape of a closed door and an axe at the window, but twelve to two was too great odds. They gained admittance and among the articles appropriated was a feather bed, which they proceeded to rip open and empty out the feathers, carrying off the tick. They continued their raid into Shelby county stealing clothing and such things as they fancied, among them being a deer hide that Frank Rudd had just tanned for a Mr. Reed of Shelby county. This raid convinced Mr. Butler that he was too far in advance of civilization, so he moved his family back to Shelby county, where he resided for six years, returning later to the vicinity of Arion, where he resided the remainder of his life. Mr. Butler was one of our first attorneys and occupied several positions of importance in the county, and was a valued defender of the Union cause during the stormy days of the war. He was also captain of a company of Home Guards, who defended

the frontier against the Indians. He was commissioned Captain by Governor Kirkwood, and commanded the company from this vicinity which wintered in a hastily built stockade at Cherokee. Mr. Butler's death, which was in the prime of life, was a distinct loss to the county."

The Mr. Carpenter spoken of before must be credited with the first manufactory in the county, outside of a saw and grist mill already installed. Mr. Carpenter was an expert broom maker and established a small broom factory, run by water power. Both he and Mr. Thurston left soon after the Indian raid and the little factory was a thing of the past. To Edmund Howorth must be given the credit of having made the first permanent settlement. He came to Union township in 1853, and settled on section 26. With him came his good wife and children, the same being, the "Uncle Edmund" of to-day, Daniel, who took a large part in the early history of the county and two daughters, Mary, later the wife of John Moorehead, and Sarah, who was married to Samuel Young. The younger Edmund settled on and improved a piece of land which he afterward sold to James Butler. He then bought land in section 23 on which he built a log cabin six by sixteen. John R. Rudd also settled in 1853, and it is claimed that Mrs. Rudd, who came with him, was the first white child born in Iowa. In 1854, Wm. Jordan came with his family, settling on Section 9, where he lived until 1857, when he sold to a Mr. Niles. Mr. Niles never moved on to the place, but lived with Judge Bassett and Judge Dow at the Comfort home where they were snow bound for months during that desperate winter. The severe season discouraged Mr. Niles, and he sold his place to Mr. Dow and took his departure. The year 1854, also brought John Vore and his wife and three children. Mr. Vore was identified with the early settlement of the county and was at one time county sheriff. With him, came John Moorehead and Cyrus Whittemore. The latter was a brother of Mrs. Vore, and was accidentally killed in June, '56, his being the first death in the township. John Moorehead staid one year in the township, and then went West with his brother George. After a number of years he returned and settled in Union township, later moving on the Soldier, where the present town of Moorehead, which was named for him, is situated. Robt. D. Butterworth, came to Union township in 1854. He located at what was then called Oak Grove, bringing with him his wife and two children. During the winter of the big snow he lived on a farm south of Arion. Later he owned and operated a saw mill in which he was associated with his son, C. E. Butterworth, who is to-day a noted citizen and one of the leaders of the re-organized church of the Latter Day Saints. During the Civil war the older Mr. Butterworth was drafted and his son volunteered to go as his substitute. James Kennedy was also a settler in 1854. He lived at Three Bee Tree Grove, and his family, consisting of his wife, four stalwart sons and two fair daughters, made quite an addition to the new settlement. In 1855, was the coming of S. E. Dow, who was destined to be the most prominent factor in the upbuilding of the locality. Mr. Dow was comparatively a wealthy man, when he came to Crawford county. He took an extensive tract of some of the finest land, and built what was for those days, a most luxurious log cabin. His wife and daughter joined him in November of that year. Mr. Dow brought with him a fine herd of cattle and in 1856, he brought to the county the first pair of thoroughbred short horns



C. & N. W. Bridge



High Water Scene



C. & N. W. and I. C. Depots



Methodist Episcopal Church



Baptist Church

DOW CITY VIEWS

it had ever boasted. Writing of the old settlers, the well beloved correspondent, G. C. Lawson, has this to say concerning Judge Dow:

"In the summer of '55 a number of men might have been seen busily employed in mowing the deep, rich, luxuriant grass where Dowville now stands. Never before had grass in this vicinity been cut by pale faces. A little above where the men were mowing was a small cabin, fourteen feet long by twelve feet wide. We will take a look at the cabin and its occupants. As we approach we perceive that the cabin had two small holes left in the sides as a substitute for windows; these apertures filled the bill. On one end was a mud chimney, in genuine frontier style. We enter the cabin and find that the occupants are a lady and a sweet little girl; the lady is seated on a stool and weeping. As she looks up we perceive that she is a lady of more than ordinary intelligence. She has been alone for a short time and has been taking a retrospective view of the happy past and also a prospective view into the unknown future. She tells us she has just arrived and wonders why Providence should be so cruel as to bring her from a comfortable home to such a dismal region as this. While she is speaking, her husband enters bearing in his hand a cup of water from a spring which he had discovered and which he said was one of the strongest veins of water he had ever seen. He presents the cup to his wife to taste the clear water, but instead of drinking she gives vent to her full heart by a flood of tears. Her husband, who is a man devoted to his family and full of never failing energy, endeavors to cheer and comfort his despairing partner. He speaks of the richness of this beautiful valley and with a prophetic eye he looks forward a few years and tells her that although Crawford county is in the far west it will soon be in the center of this great country. He tells her that she will yet see a town on that very farm and the iron horse will travel up and down the Boyer valley. But all was of no avail; she still wept. Could this lady have seen through the future to the present time (May 6, 1874) she would have seen the hand of God had led her husband there. If she could have seen the many hearts which would be filled with gratitude by the kindness of herself and husband, if she could have had but a moment's peep at the year 1874 she would have exclaimed:

Deep in unfathomable mines, of never failing skill,
He treasures up his bright designs, and works his sovereign will.

"The industrious and energetic husband soon has a new log cabin erected, of large dimensions. Another link is added to make the place more attractive by the advent of a little baby boy. Winter comes early but it finds the husband prepared; the house is full of all necessities. There are many who remember this terrible winter which is said to have been the coldest in the memory of the oldest inhabitants. Many settlers were not prepared when the winter came upon them and their sufferings were great."

Mr. S. E. Dow was born in Hopkinson, New Hampshire, April 17, 1821, of sturdy New England stock from whom he inherited those sturdy traits of character which helped him throughout his entire life. In his early manhood he went with his father's family to Michigan, and he was married in western New York on the 28th day of October, 1846, to the lady who survives him. To them four children were born, of whom two sons survive, S. A. and W. E., one daughter,

Mrs. Abner Graves, dying a few years before her father, and one child dying in infancy.

During the season of 1854, Mr. Dow started to go to California, but on reaching Council Bluffs, he concluded that the prairies of Iowa were good enough for any one. He returned as far as Harris grove, in Harrison county, where he spent the winter, coming to Crawford county the year following. Here he selected a beautiful tract of land, which he so long occupied, beginning immediately to improve and build a home for himself and family. This proved the nucleus around which grew the settlement of Crawford, later Dowville, and now Dow City. He was elected county judge and county treasurer and held many minor local offices. The one that he appreciated most was that he was the first postmaster of Crawford. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Dow was noted for its hospitality. When so many of the settlers needed assistance they always found it, and a cordial welcome awaiting them at the Dow home. On the establishment of the station on the Northwestern railway, Mr. Dow began business forming a partnership with Mr. Abner Graves, his son-in-law. For many years this was the leading business concern of the western part of the county. Financial reverses came and Mr. Dow was reduced from affluence to comparative poverty, but he never lost the good will, esteem, and confidence of his neighbors, and no man has held a more honored position among those who knew him best. His later years were spent in retirement, although he continued to take an active interest in the affairs of the community and his judgment was respected by all. Mr. Dow died October 30, 1906, at his home at Dow City. Impressive funeral services were held, people from all parts of the county being in attendance. What Thomas Dobson was to Deloit, what J. W. Denison was to Denison, S. E. Dow was to Dow City—the founder and the constant friend.

In September, 1855, S. J. Comfort settled on section 5, and erected a little cabin home in which that well known family began life in Union township. Speaking of the early days, Mrs. Bruner says deer, wolves and wild turkeys came to our very door. I well remember a herd of eleven deer that came to the door when there was no one at home but Mother and us children. Mother took the shot gun, putting the muzzle in the crack in the chinking, and fired at them. They bounded away through the tall grass, making a very pretty sight. My oldest sister declared my Mother shut her eyes when she fired for fear she would hit one. We children imagined every one we saw coming was an Indian, and Mother used to fear we would get lost in the tall grass when we went for the cows, for the grass on the bottoms was higher than our heads. In the spring of '56 my father sowed a small patch of wheat on Robt. Butterworth's land, our own land still being wild prairie. Thus we had wheat bread for the following year, the wheat we had raised in Harrison county in '55 having burned in a prairie fire. Corn bread had ceased to be a luxury. Later the supply of flour ran very low, but my sister kept a teacup full so she could say we were never out of flour.

In the summer the breaking plow was kept busy and my father set up a forge where he sharpened the lays and did what blacksmithing the neighborhood required. We raised some sod corn and pumpkins. December of 1856 brought the first blizzard of that year and every old settler well remembers the severity

of that winter when deer and elk starved to death and some were eaten alive by the wolves.

I remember that winter that Mr. Dow and my father each took a sack full of buckwheat, loaded them on a large home-made handsled and hauled it to the ridge road, where John Vore took it to the mill for them, the bottom roads being impassible for a team. In March '57, they took this same hand sled, put in a tongue long enough to hitch a horse to and with a boot box for a seat drove to Council Bluffs for groceries, as our supply was almost exhausted. In 1856, B. B. Bishop came with his wife, daughter and mother. He settled on section 19, where he remained until his death. Wm. Wilke settled on the present site of Arion in this year. He remained a few years and then returned to his native Scotland. Henry Lyman, came in '56, living in a cabin in North Grove, after which he moved into Boyer township. Samuel and David Young also came in the fall of this year. They settled on section 17, at which place Samuel built him a home and spent the remainder of his life. 1857 witnessed the coming of a number of new settlers. James Welsh, settling on section 7, with his wife, three daughters, and his wife's sister, Rebecca Richardson. Lucius Brett settled on the Martin Conroy place, with his wife and three daughters, remaining a year and then returning to Illinois. June 8, 1857, Levi Noll, settled at North Grove, staying for a time and then returning to Ohio. Samuel and Alexander Patton also settled at North Grove in 1857. Barney Hinsdale and wife came in 1858 living on section 31.

C. F. Buss, one of the prominent and best beloved citizens of Union township today, first bought land in Crawford county in 1854, but he did not make this his permanent home until 1859, when he settled on his farm, section 7 and 18, built a log cabin and remained with us through all the years, although the log cabin has long since been outgrown.

The first school in the township was taught in the summer of 1858, in a log house standing in section 9. The teacher was Miss Elizabeth Kenedy, daughter of Chas. Kenedy.

The school fund commissioner, I. B. Goodrich, appointed H. C. Laub and Morris McHenry to examine her as to her qualifications as a teacher. This school was taught in the spring and in June there was a great freshet. The only bridge in the vicinity was swept away. The teacher and one scholar were on one side of the river and the other eight of us on the opposite bank. We were used to hardships, however, and my father soon had a boat built. The scholars all came to our house and father rowed us over the river night and morning.

"The first sermon was preached in '57, by Wm. Black at the home of S. J. Comfort. The first bridge over the Boyer, in this township, was built by Comfort and Dow with the assistance of a few days' work by some of the neighbors. This bridge was built in February and March, 1856. It was struck by a cyclone the following May, and damaged to some extent, but soon repaired. It was swept away in the freshet of June, 1858. This bridge was located near the corners of sections 4 and 5, 8 and 9, on land belonging to S. J. Comfort. Don Butler, son of James M. and Catherine Butler, was the first white child born in the township. The first election held in the township, was in a log house in section 32, then and now owned by Reuben Vore.

The year of 1860 brought to our midst, James Balentine, and Geo. Bird. They moved on a piece of land owned by Mr. Dow, in section 9 at which place they resided until '67. In 1861 James Foster with his wife and three children came and settled in Sec. 7. He was a blacksmith, he set up shop and worked at his trade for several years, then moved to Woodbine. We had very few new settlers during the years of the war. In '62, Thos. Binnal came to us from Shelby county. He with his family, settled at North Grove. In the year of '63, Sandlander Bell moved from Paradise township into Union, he having resided just across the line since 1856. He was one of us all these years. S. J. Comfort came back to his farm from Denison where he had been living in order to send his children to school. This year did not bring us any new settlers, the war being the absorbing theme, but if we did not have any newcomers, we had what we prized very highly and that was school houses. There were three built in the township this year, one in Sec. 4, one in Sec. 9 and the other in Sec. 31. We had preaching during this summer in the school house in Sec. 4, the first we had since the December of '57. The year of '64, was kinder than those preceding it. This year came John Pett with his wife and eight children, and his wife's mother. They settled at North Grove, where he lived four years, then bought and moved to his present home in Sec. 26. This year also brought us John Rolls and family, father of our John Rolls. He lived at North Grove for a time.

So far as I can ascertain all that came to our township during 1864, settled temporarily at North Grove, for C. B. Whaley, came there this year making his home with his sister, Mrs. Vore, and taught school over the line in Shelby county, settling in Sec. 5 in '67.

The year of '65, being the close of the war, settlers were more plentiful. Martin Talcott came with his family, settling in Sec. 7. Adam Dosier settled in Sec. 16, where his wife and children still reside. Louis Schwab came with his wife and three children. He settled in Sec. 16, the farm now owned by Joseph Dosier. J. H. Woodruff also came, leaving the school room for the farm and settling in Sec. 31. During this year Frank Thompson, was brought by his grandfather to the home of John Rolls where he made his future home. The Hon. George Rae, came to us in the fall of 1865, bringing his wife and making his permanent settlement in '67, in Sec. 2, his present home. Joseph Ahart, came in '66. As his family was small consisting of his wife and one child, and his household goods meager, he loaded them and the baby on a wheel barrow and wheeled them from Boone to this township, himself and wife walking. He settled in Sec. 16. Orville Woods came this year with his family, this being the year that the N. W. R. R. was built; he settled in the section house, boarding the section men until he moved onto his farm in Sec. 35. There was a stage line established from the end of the R. R. route to Council Bluffs, a telegraph line was built, and altogether we were coming in touch with the outside world. The following year, Benjamin Wilder came with his wife and three children and commenced life in the west in Sec. 1, as did Frank and Solomon Gibson. They settled on the farm now owned by L. A. Vore in Sec. 7. Here they enjoyed all the freedom of bachelorhood for a year, at the end of which time Solomon decided it was not good for man to be alone so he hied him away to Canada, his

native place, and procured him a help-mate and subsequently moved to their present home in the same Section.

This same year Thomas Rae came and settled in section 3. He brought with him his wife and one child. We gladly welcomed Mr. Rae to our midst and have kept on welcoming him ever since. He still lives in Sec. 3, where you will receive a hearty greeting if you pass that way. Peter Martin and wife came in '69, they stayed at the home of S. Gibson for a time and then moved to North Grove and subsequently went west. Wm. Scott brought his wife and seven children and settled among us this year. His abiding place was on a tract of land owned by Mr. Dow, in section 4. Here the children were reared to manhood and womanhood and went out to homes of their own. R. M. Smith and R. F. McMeans bought 160 acres of land of S. J. Comfort in sections 4 and 9 and moved their families here during the summer, Mr. Comfort moved to Denison. Mr. Smith was familiarly known as Budd Smith. The G. A. R. post of this place being named for him. G. W. Huntington came this year bringing his wife and one child and settled in section 5. This brings us down to the year 1870.

The coming of George Rae in 1866, was an event worthy of more than passing notice, as Mr. Rae became one of the most prominent citizens of West Crawford, and was in every respect an ideal citizen.

George Rae was born in the Parish of Kings Kettle in Fife county, Scotland. January, 1840. He was educated in the village school, and was soon taught the art of weaving, which was the chief occupation of the valley in which he was born. He emigrated to America in 1861, and landed at Montreal. He then went to Saco, Maine, where he obtained a good position in the Pepperill mills of Biddleford, just across the river. After four years in Maine, he started West to see the country, going especially to look for land in Illinois and Missouri. He travelled nearly across the state of Missouri on foot, but this region did not measure up to his expectations, and having heard glowing accounts of Iowa, he proceeded Northwest, where he found employment with T. A. Dennis, a large land owner, who had contracts to supply heavy timber for the completing of the railroad. Mr. Rae's ability soon secured him a good position with Mr. Dennis. Among the workers at the saw mill, was a Mr. Henderson from up the Boyer in Crawford county, who was always extolling the fertility of the Boyer valley. In the winter of '65, Mr. Rae came with Mr. Henderson to see this wonderful valley, and he soon concluded that it was the best part of the west which he had seen. He stopped temporarily at the Bell home, where Mr. Butler a neighbor, soon heard of his presence. They were anxious to obtain a teacher for their new school house and they engaged the new comer. In 1866, Mr. Rae secured some land, made arrangements for breaking a part of it, and then returned to Harrison county where work was plenty. In the summer he returned to the Boyer Valley, had a 16 x 16 cabin built, and in November of the same year, returned to Saco, Maine, where he was married to Miss Jean Wilson. Their wedding tour was a trip from Maine to Iowa. They arranged to get passage on a construction train west from Boone, and were the first passengers to arrive by railroad, at what is now Dow City. They were received with great cordiality by the neighbors, and commenced housekeeping in their

new home, December 6, 1866. Mr. Rae taught school in the winter and worked his farm during the summer months. He was very successful as a farmer and soon increased his holdings to 200 acres. He soon became prominent in all the affairs of the settlement. He was justice of the peace, a member of the board of supervisors, a member of the 16th general assembly serving while John Gear was speaker, he had assignments on many of the important committees, and was a factor in the legislature of that year. His room-mate while at Des Moines, was Gifford Robinson, later one of the Supreme Judges of Iowa, and at present a member of the Iowa board of control.

Mr. Rae was a member of the first board of directors of the independent school district of Dow City, was a charter member of the Methodist church, in the management of which he took a leading part, and was a Free Mason, receiving his degrees in the lodge at Saco, Maine. Mrs. Rae died July 12, 1904. Mr. George Rae died Jan. 19, 1907. Both of them were genuinely and universally mourned by the people of Union township and the entire community.

Mr. Thos. Rae, brother of Geo. Rae, who is to-day one of the best known citizens of Crawford, writes us a description of the neighborhood when he first saw it in the spring of 1867. Mr. Rae says, "Between my home and Denison was the Butler farm and the Corbin farm at the saw mill site near Denison. There were few bridges, but many good fords. Where the creeks could not be forded, travelers were forced to go around to the head of the stream on to the ridge, thus beginning the ridge roads for which the county is famous. The only feasible route from Denison to Council Bluffs was by following the Divide, making a long road. These roads were but paths, or trails, leading in the most direct way between different homes. The scenery in the valley was very beautiful. Vegetation was luxurious, and the rolling prairie made a pretty sight. Outside of the few houses in the Paradise valley, there was nothing to be seen but open prairie, north, west and east, as far as the eye could reach. Across the valley to the south, were the homes of several settlers. One of the first houses to break this sweep of unbroken prairie, was that erected by a colored man named Grant, who erected a small cabin on the Upper Willow. On my first trip to Denison," continues Mr. Rae, "in order to make a few purchases and mail some letters, I found only a few straggling houses in the village. Mr. Laub had a little store building, with his family living in the back room. The post master then was Elmer Howe, who also kept a few groceries. Howe's building was completely destroyed by fire one very cold day in January, 1867. The most prominent man in Denison at that time after Mr. Laub, was A. D. Molony.

"The first pleasant Sunday after our arrival we drove to Denison to attend church services and heard J. W. Denison preach in the court house. The Baptists and Methodists holding services on alternate Sundays.

"Postal facilities were limited, and our first rural delivery was introduced by Jack Bell, who went to Denison an average of three times every two weeks, bringing back the mail for the entire neighborhood as an act of friendship.

"Mr. Rae gives us a list of the families living in south west Crawford in 1867; beginning with Mr. Coburn, who lived near the saw mill by the bridge on what is now the Balle farm, there followed Isaac Seabury, James Butler,

Joseph Ahart, Uncle Bell, S. J. Comfort, James Welch, C. F. Buss, Hiram Ernest, S. E. Wright and the Dunham family. Coming up on the south side of the river, Cornelius Dunham, John and Reuben Vore, Sam'l Young, Dan'l Haworth, Wm. Jordan, Ben Bishop, Harry Bishop, Wm. Henderson, Cyrus Whittenmore, John Pett, S. E. Dow, John Rudd, A. F. Rudd, Reuben Strong, G. W. Jordan, who came from Maine in 1866, Joseph Woodruff and Chas. Whaley."

"Joseph Hallowell arrived in the summer of '67, from McGregor, Iowa. The timbers for Mr. Hallowell's house were hauled from the Missouri bottoms from a saw mill at the mouth of the Soldier river. James Ballentine was a renter on Mr. Dow's farm. Philetus Haverland and Al. Marshall came from Illinois in '67, camping by the river until their houses were built. This list contains every family residing within this territory, beginning at the gravel pit near Denison and extending down the river almost to Dunlap.

"Another character which should be added to the list is Wm. Wallace, who came in the spring of '67, living until 1881, on an 80 acre farm where Belltown is now located. He was a man of more than average ability, and will be well remembered by the early settlers."

Messrs. Dow, Comfort, Buss and Butler, may be named as the foremost settlers prior to the war. Of these, Mr. C. F. Buss is the sole survivor. Sam'l Young was a mechanic as well as a farmer and was the builder of the first three frame school houses put up in western Crawford. His fame as a good workman lasts until this day. The Bells were also strong factors in the early settlement and held a very warm place in the hearts of the community. James, the oldest son, built some of the first bridges in the county, cutting the logs, hewing the timbers for bents and mortising them, hewing upper side of logs for strings and, until the saw mill was started in Galland's grove, splitting the logs for plank for the bridge floors. Uncle Edmund Howorth is one of the old guard of '55, known and loved by all. John R. Rudd is still hale and hearty and one most worthy of mention.

The coming of the railroad revolutionized this part of the country as it did all of the West. A station was put in at a point about ten miles south west of Denison and this was called Crawford, the town lots being laid out in October, 1869. The new town was soon re-christened Dowville, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Dow, and the Review of January 1, 1870, tells us of the beautiful plat of the new town of Dowville which Mr. Graves had handsomely framed. The railroad station rapidly drew other enterprises and Dowville became a lively little village. In August, 1871, we find record of a district meeting at which 300 were present. In September the school house was built 24 by 36, in size. In November the population of Union township is given as 98 males and 87 females. It must be remembered, however, that Union was the second township formed in Crawford county and that it comprised what are now Union, Washington, Nishnabotny, and Iowa townships. That there was still some misunderstanding as to the name is shown by the fact that the papers speak of a Christmas gathering at the home of A. Wiggins of Crawford. This was in 1871.

November 14, 1872, we find a reference to the annual meeting of the Dowville Cemetery Association. This association is one in which Dow City has taken much pride and interest until it has become the model cemetery of the county. Again we requisition Mr. Thomas Rae for information. He tells us that the cemetery association was organized at a meeting of citizens January 29, 1870. This meeting was held at the Dowville school house. James Bell, Chairman; R. M. Smith, Sec'y; S. E. Dow generously donated two acres of ground which were gratefully accepted. A committee consisting of Jos. Hallowell, Geo. Rae, James Bell, S. Young, S. Bell, drew up articles of incorporation, which were adopted February 5, 1870. We give the list of charter members of this association because it gives the names of practically all those identified with the community at that time. They were as follows: Jos. Hallowell, R. M. Smith, C. B. Whaley, James Bell, S. Bell, Robt Bell, Geo. Rae, Benj. Wlizer, Erin Hawley, Wm. Wallace, S. Young B. W. Talcott A. F. Rudd, W. Shaffer, Thos. Rae, E. L. Hammond, S. M. Graham, G. V. Jordan Peter Martin, H. Bowering, Martin Talcott, H. E. Talcott, R. D. Butterworth, J. C. Kuykendall, John Runkey, Silas Hoffman, G. C. Lawson, S. E. Dow and J. R. Rudd.

The grounds were surveyed and platted as soon as the frost was out of the ground. A pathetic incident relative to the starting of this cemetery association was the anxiety and push of James Bell in getting the neighbors to take hold and organize. He was the chief promoter and it seemed that he could not rest until the organization was effected and the grounds made ready. Within four months after the accomplishment of this cherished plan, Mr. Bell was taken ill and died and his was the first interment in the new cemetery. The grounds are nicely located one mile south west of the village. Three acres have been added and the grounds have been kept in beautiful condition. A plot was donated for the use of the Grand Army and a substantial monument to the soldier dead has been erected. Through the influence of the late Sen. J. P. Dolliver, a cannon was secured from the government which adds greatly to the monumental effect of the cemetery.

Mr. George Rae was one of the chief men in promoting this good work as was also G. W. Huntington, Robt. Bell, and Thos. Rae, who has been secretary since 1885.

The present officers are G. W. Huntington, Pres.; Thos. Rae, Sec'y.; Robt. Bell, Treas.; Henry Young, Frank Henry, G. M. Talcott, Directors, M. H. Blandon, Sexton.

The re-organized church of Latter Day Saints was a strong factor in this section from its earliest days. In 1872, we find that it had 48 members at Dowville, with Geo. Montagne, presiding. The name of the post office was not changed from Crawford to Dowville until April, 1872, at which time L. E. Hardy was appointed postmaster, vice Judge Dow resigned. The railroad business at Dowville for 1871, averaged \$355.00, per month. The Review of May 22, 1872, notes that "Judge Dow is to build a brick mansion and that Wood Bros. are to commence manufacturing brick for him this week." G. C. Lawson writes in '73; he says: "Dowville is but three years old. In morality it is a model for any town. It supports both a Methodist and Presbyterian minister and has Sunday School regularly. Friday evening is devoted to Lyceum



CITY PARK, DOW CITY

privileges and the weather must be very boisterous if the school house is not filled. There is no better locality for a grist mill or a grist and woolen mill combined. One farmer has about one thousand head of sheep. Judge S. E. Dow offers the most liberal inducement to settlers. The future is bright for Dowville and we expect to see it one of the most important business towns in this section of the country."

In 1873, Dowville started a movement for a cheese factory, the building for which was erected in that year. Among the other improvements for that year, we note that "another store is to be opened up immediately, that the school house is in process of graining, that Mr. Jordan has established a livery stable, that Mr. Hardy expects to build a store, and that Drs. Satterlee and Patterson contemplate building a large drug store." The presence of Dr. Middleton is noted. The new firm of Cook and Lewis, general merchants, enter business and we find the interesting note that Mr. Thornton, the oldest settler in this part of the country, and who was robbed in Lost Grove many years ago by the Indians, "past through Dowville last Saturday enroute for Nevada." During 1874, also, there was much excitement as to the discovery of coal. This did not amount to anything, but the savages of the grasshoppers were very real. Dow City held a grand 4th of July celebration in 1874. The celebration was held near the cheese factory. There was ice cream, lemonade, speaking, and two bowery dances. Mr. Frank Tabor was the orator of the day. The year 1874 was also memorable on account of the most violent hail storm ever known there. The width of the storm was about one and one half miles, hail stones or more correctly ice, fell in every conceivable shape and size. The newspaper correspondent continues: "This is the second time in three years that these farms have lost their corn crops by hail. Mr. Grace has lost six crops in twenty-two years by water, grasshoppers, drouth and hail."

The continued prosperity of the village is indicated, however, by the erection of an elevator by Dow and Graves, the building of a millinery store, for Talcott and Hammond, and the erection of a drug store by Boyd and Manning of Dunlap. Another business house spoken of is a harness shop, owned by E. B. Guard.

The township officers in 1874, were Clerk, Ben Heath; Trustees, C. F. Buss, John Pett, B. Wilder; Assessors, E. L. Hammond; Justices, A. Graves, Geo. Rae; Constables, Jos. McColl, Andrew Bell; Road Supervisors, A. J. Henderson, G. W. Huntington, Wm. Pett, T. Binnell, and S. Young.

Showing the unsettled condition of the country and the rigors of the winter season, we quote the following from a correspondence of G. C. Lawson in the Denison Review, under date of February 17, 1875, as follows:

"We have just had a visit from Mr. A. L. Palmer, of 'Pretty Prairie,' who took care of the Green family on Wednesday, February 3d. The following is a true account of the sufferings of this family.

"On Tuesday, February 2d about 4 o'clock, a family of six started from Dunlap for their home in Pretty Prairie, in Union township, a distance of sixteen miles. Hardly had they started before the terrible storm commenced. While they were traveling among the timber, they were reasonably comfortable, but when they struck the open prairie the snow came with such terrible force

that both horses and driver were blinded. The driver, although not twenty years of age, saw that the safety of the family depended greatly on him. The storm increased. The horses became more unmanageable, but the noble youth held onto the lines like a true hero. But night came on and nothing but animal instinct could save them and take them home. The thermometer had fallen to twelve degrees below zero at this time. Who can tell the agony of the two mothers, each clasping a babe to her breast, when the horses stood still at a straw pile and refused to move. The truth came upon them that

They were lost.

"Although not a mile from home, they were unable to tell where home was. The mother of the two ladies who had each a babe, whose respective ages were four and eight months, took charge of the whole matter. The whole family laid down in the sleigh and covered themselves up as well as possible with the covering they had, and resigned themselves to their fate. As we heard Mr. Palmer tell of the terrible feelings of the mothers and their babes we thought of the song of the 'Snow Storm,' where the mother with her babe was found; the mother was dead, but when the man

'Unwrapped the robe from off the child,
The babe looked up and sweetly smiled.'

"At three o'clock in the morning, Mr. Green attempted to find a house. He did not succeed in finding one, and the noble young man was terribly frozen. As daylight approached, the old lady, Mrs. Green, informed her daughters that she saw a house not far distant and would try and reach it. 'God bless you, and spare you my children,' were the words of the mother as she left. The house was Mr. Palmer's, but the old lady gave out before reaching it. Some of Mr. Palmer's family saw her and hastened to her assistance. She told them the story of their sufferings as they carried her to the house. Soon the nearly frozen horses with their burden were at Mr. Palmer's house. All were badly frozen but the babes."

In 1876, the Council Bluffs Nonpareil contains the following brief mention of Dowville: "Dowville is located in Crawford county on the North Western railroad and was founded by S. E. Dow, Esq., one of the oldest settlers of the county. He came there twenty years ago. The town has one fine school house, one hotel, one flouring mill, one elevator, agricultural warehouse, cheese factory, lumber yard, three dry goods stores, drug store, harness shop and many fine residences. Among the latter is the splendid brick residence of S. E. Dow, the finest in the country. He built in 1874, at a cost of over \$11,000. It has 20 rooms, and is finished and furnished in fine style. He is the owner of over 1500 acres of farm land. He also owns the elevator, lumber yard, agricultural house, and cheese factory. He ships a large amount of stock annually."

Among the other Dow City items for 1876, we note that the school board is about to invest \$230.00 in a public library, and that the spring term of school opened with Mrs. Scofield, of Dunlap as teacher. Further mention is made that Major Heath, the rail road station agent, is to put in his leisure hours publishing a semi-monthly paper, and that a \$100.00 printing press and outfit are to be purchased.

There are many other notes of new residences during this and succeeding years. By 1879, the name had been changed from Dowville to Dow City, and the growth of the town is shown by the following item: "Mr. Lewis, the post master tells us that the room has been found altogether too small for the demand of the public and that his brother is about to finish a two story building on the opposite side of the street, 22 by 36, with a town hall above."

There is no data from which a detailed history of Dow City can be given for the years since 1880 and it will be necessary to briefly summarize the more important events. As we have seen Dow City gave much promise in its earlier days and while these hopes have not all been fulfilled it has held its own as a trading point and as a place of residence in spite of more discouragements than have been the lot of any other town in the county.

The firm of Dow and Graves was the all important one during the first decades of Dow City's history and the financial embarrassment of this firm brought with it distress to many others and was a blow to the prosperity of the entire western portion of the county. Dow City recovered from this blow only to sustain others. In June 1891 a fire destroyed the flour house of the Dow City mills and caused severe property loss. In January 1895 fire destroyed the furniture store owned by J. U. Wise and hardly had he removed his damaged stock to another building when a second conflagration swept away his store, together with the hotel and several other business houses. It was supposed that this was an incendiary fire. During the same year Mr. W. C. Hillas, then the prominent merchant of the town, committed suicide while in a state of despondency caused by ill health. This was another blow to the business of the city.

When the Sioux City branch of the Chicago and Milwaukee railroad was constructed the line passed about two miles to the east of Dow City. At the crossing with the Northwestern the town of Arion was established and this made a competing market and business point very close at hand. There was some talk of the removal of Dow City to the new site just as was done when Astor moved to Manilla and when Old Kiron moved to New Kiron. But Dow City was too well established and had too much invested for this to be done. At the outset Arion was a "boom" town and this prevented the growth of Dow City just at the time when the other towns of the county were forging to the front.

Twice during the past few years has Dow City been the victim of expensive fires, once when the hotel owned by R. A. Slocumb was burned to the ground and still later when the postoffice and several business houses were consumed. A well built brick block has taken the place of the frame buildings, destroyed in this last fire and a new hotel has been erected but these repeated disasters have seriously impeded growth.

The greatest reverse of the plucky little town has had to meet came with the failure of the Exchange Bank owned by H. S. Green. This was an old established institution. It had weathered the financial storms of the nineties, its proprietor was well liked and had the confidence of all. The news of the failure was almost unbelievable among the people who had trusted so implicitly in the institution and when the rumor was verified it brought consternation and despair to many hearts. Scores of people found the savings of a life time

wiped away, farmers who thought their mortgages had been paid, found that their agent had not made the payment and that the debt still hung over them. The loss to depositors was \$60,000 and in the final settlement they were repaid but thirteen cents on the dollar. The loss sustained through trust funds, etc., was even greater and it is estimated that the people of Dow City and vicinity lost more than \$100,000 in addition to the loss to the depositors. Soon after the failure Mr. Green was indicted for fraudulent banking but he left before being placed under arrest. For several years efforts to locate him were unsuccessful. He was finally located in California but the confiding local officers allowed him to escape before the Iowa officer arrived with papers for his extradition. Later, some of the poorer depositors received small amounts in repayment and in 1910 Mr. Green returned to the county and voluntarily gave himself up to the authorities. He was released under bond and the matter is still before the courts. The sentiment of Dow City is largely divided between those who wish the matter pushed and those who feel that Mr. Green was the victim of circumstances, that he is now trying to make restitution as far as possible and that he should be allowed his liberty. It is not the part of the historian to express an opinion about a question which is still before the courts and it is alluded to simply as a part of the history of the town.

Dow City is now upon a solid business basis. It has good trade territory and a loyal constituency. Its business men are reliable and enterprising. After the failure of the Exchange Bank the Bank of Dow City was established by the McHenry family, owners of the First National Bank of Denison. This bank did very much to help the people of Dow City weather the storm consequent to their great losses and it has the entire confidence of the community. In December 1910 the safe of this bank was blown open by burglars and nearly \$5,000 was stolen from the vault, such were the resources of the bank, however, that no concern was felt as to its solvency and the business was continued the following day without interruption.

Dow City contains a number of very pretty homes and it boasts of the most beautiful park in the county. Its schools have for many years maintained a high standard of excellence and have attracted students from all the country side round about. The school building was erected in 1875 but a large addition was built at a later date and it has been kept in the best of repair, while its grounds, occupying an entire block, are ideal for school purposes. The schools occupy six rooms and during the past year the teaching force consisted of Supt. C. C. Bunch, Assistant, Miss Grace King, High School and Music teacher, Miss Helen Hayes and grade teachers, Miss Hilda Turnland, Miss Helen Goddard, Miss Mildred Wiggins and Miss Jenna Strahan. The school property is valued at about seven thousand dollars.

The many fires have taught Dow City a lesson as to fire protection and it now has an excellent system of water works which were put in at a cost of six thousand dollars. The air pressure system is used and the town owns a suitable brick pumping station equipped with good machinery and a satisfactory engine. There is a well drilled volunteer fire company with E. P. O'Meara as chief and the city own good hose cart and other fire fighting apparatus.



AFTER THE FIRE, DOW CITY



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DOW CITY

The present Mayor is Mr. S. A. Dow, son of the founder of the town and that his administration is progressive is shown by the civic improvements now under way. The religious interests of the town are represented by strong and active congregations of the Methodist Episcopal, the Baptist and Latter Day Saint denominations. These organizations all occupy handsome and comfortable churches of their own. The fraternities are the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Redmen, The Royal Neighbors and the Rebekahs, brief histories of which are appended. At present the business institutions and the business men are as follows: Bank of Dow City, W. E. Fishel cashier, E. G. Wiggins Assistant; A. H. Rudd, editor Dow City Enterprise; D. E. Bremser and H. Lazerus, general merchants; W. H. Wiggins, furnishing goods and groceries; E. R. Brake, groceries and bakery; W. C. Rolls, restaurant; J. R. Best and Stewart Lumber Co., hardware and implements; Anderson Drug Co.; A. L. Brown, jeweler; C. L. Rudd, hotel; Ahart and Roberts, meats; R. W. Houston, livery; F. W. Berka, photographer; V. Vaughan and M. C. Morris, barbers; Miss Lucy Healey, milliner; E. H. Swasey, lawyer; R. T. Van Metre and L. B. Toon, physicians; N. R. Wilder, A. L. Jackson and S. A. Dow, real estate and insurance; Stewart Lumber Co., lumber; Jos. McColl, flour and feed mill, Nelson Bros., harness; J. A. Scott and T. A. Baber, blacksmiths; E. V. Goddard, wagon maker; John O'Meara, saloon; Chas. Rook, pool hall; Miller and Williamson, cement contractors; W. E. Dow, C. O. Miller and C. L. Rudd, carpenters; G. H. Huntington and G. M. Goddard, painters and paper hangers; J. U. Wise, postmaster; J. G. Gaul, agent Northwestern; O. J. Judd, agent Illinois Central, C. Vollersen, grain and stock buyer. The population of Dow City is 464, something less than it was in 1900, but this loss it shares with many of the other cities of the state. Considering its many adversities Dow City has much of which to be proud. It is a patriotic little town and its celebrations of Memorial Day and July Fourth are always memorable events. It has great civic pride and is withal a contented and prosperous community.

The post office at Dow City was established in 1867. As near as it is possible to obtain it, the list of postmasters is as follows: Mr. Shafer, L. E. Hardy, Benjamin Heath, M. B. Lewis, W. B. Evans, A. H. Rudd, M. G. Wiggins, and J. U. Wise. The post office is now pleasantly located in a substantial brick building. The receipts for the past year being \$1,661.80.

A. F. & A. M.

The Masonic lodge at Dow City was founded March 14, 1901 by a dispensation granted by the Grand Master Willard L. Eaton to John Creagon, J. W. Sinyard, D. L. Houston, C. W. Carr, T. J. Phillips, George Iverson, J. T. Sherman, M. H. Blanding, D. Webster, E. N. Chamberlain, G. L. Caswell, Ira Springer, George Richardson, Levi Noll and George Rae. A meeting for the purpose of organization was held April 1, 1901 and John Creagon was appointed as W. M.; E. N. Chamberlain, S. W. and J. T. Sherman as J. W.; W. Houston, treasurer; D. Webster, secretary; Ira Springer, S. D.; T. J. Phillips, J. D.; George Iverson, S. S.; C. W. Carr, J. S.; and M. H. Blanding, tyler.

The lodge recently passed its tenth birthday and has progressed since its organization slowly but carefully and has at present a membership of 34. Of the charter members three only retain membership in the lodge, Messrs. Creagon, Iverson and Chamberlain. The lodge has lost two members by death, Mr. George Rae and Mr. J. T. Phillips. The worthy masters of the lodge have been John Creagon, E. N. Chamberlain, L. B. Toon, E. H. Swasey, F. C. Howorth, S. E. Goddard. The present officers are: R. T. VanMetre, W. M.; G. M. Goddard, S. W.; H. Lazerus, J. W.; E. N. Chamberlain, Treasurer; O. J. Judd, Secretary; E. H. Swasey, S. D.; R. W. Houston, J. D.; J. A. Rule, S. S.; H. B. Fishel, J. S.; W. M. Jordan Tyler, J. G. Graul, Chaplain.

I. O. O. F.

Globe Lodge, No. 280, I. O. O. F., a progressive, up-to-date organization and one of the best subordinate lodges of the great fraternity of Odd Fellowship was instituted at Dow City, Iowa, October 23, 1890. This lodge meets every Friday evening and consists of energetic, enthusiastic members whose interest is manifested by the fact that there is always a quorum present. The charter members were Thos. Simms, H. B. Hart, Thos. M. Sharp, P. D. Cramer, and David Walter. On the night of organization, the following class was initiated: T. W. Swatman, W. V. Whaley, H. F. Bolton, J. W. Cramer, Amos Weatherby, J. B. Holliday, R. A. Slocumb, H. P. Smith, and A. A. Fishel. Thomas Simms was the first to fill the chair of Noble Grand and filled the office for two terms. Brother Simms was an active worker and while he remained in Dow City was always a consistent exponent of Odd Fellowship. Of the founders of the Odd Fellows in Dow City, J. W. Cramer, T. W. Swatman, and W. V. Whaley are still members and continue an interest in its welfare which has never relaxed during the twenty years of its existence. At present the lodge has a membership of 84.

It is incorporated and owns property valued at \$6,000. Although greatly damaged by fire in April, 1909, the building has been replaced and the lodge now has a property which earns a good income.

The Ladies Auxiliary, the Rebekah Lodge has a membership of fifty-two and is in fine condition. Charter Oak encampment, No. 142 the only encampment in Crawford county, was instituted at Charter Oak, Iowa, October 20, 1891, and was transferred to Dow City in March, 1902, and the name changed to Dow City encampment, No. 142. The encampment meets semi-monthly and has a membership of 42.

THE RED MEN.

Swastika Tribe, No. 136 of the Improved Order of Red Men was organized in Dow City, April 22, 1909. The charter members were W. B. Gibson, M. A. Persall, W. C. Rolls, L. H. Goddard, S. E. Rudd, D. G. Howarth, E. H. Swasey, E. P. O'Meara, John Ahart, G. C. Rule, L. B. Thompson, C. L. Rudd, C. H. Miller, J. H. Persall, T. A. Sterrett, O. A. Cooper, Jess Justice, H. H. Malone, M. C. Norris.

The first officers were, W. C. Rolls, Sachem; E. H. Swasey, P.; C. L. Rudd, S. S.; E. P. O'Meara, J. S.; S. E. Rudd, C. of R. The present officers are, L. H. Goddard, Sachem; J. H. Persall, S. S.; H. H. Malone, J. S; F. C. Buss, P.; W. C. Rolls, K. W.; O. A. Cooper, C. of R; Representative to the Great Council, W. C. Rolls. The present membership is 42.

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA.

Mineral Springs Camp, No. 1183, M. W. A. was organized October 10, 1889. The first officers were, F. S. Stone, V. C.; E. H. Swasey, W. A.; H. S. Green, Banker; N. B. Crowell, Clerk; C. E. McIntosh, E.; N. R. Wilder, W.; C. W. Underhill, S.; W. B. Evans, L.; Henry Bell, E. C. Totman and E. E. Nichols were also charter members. The present officers are Thomas Munson, C.; M. A. Riley, V. C.; J. H. Persall, B.; L. H. Goddard, Clerk. The membership is very large, there being now 145 in good standing. This is perhaps the strongest social factor of the town and it has done much good both in village life and as a helpful fraternity in time of need. Associated with it is the Auxiliary organization of the Royal Neighbors of America.

The local camp is known as Mineral Park Camp, No. 2043 and was organized March 8, 1900. The first officers were, Della Chamberlain, O.; Tillie Hollowell, V. O.; Luella Davis, Recorder. The present officers are, Bessie Binnall, O.; May Odell, V. O.; Maud Persall, P. O.; Thena Fritz, Rec. The membership is 44.

CHAPTER XLII.

VAIL AND VICINITY.

Thomas Ryan was the first citizen of Vail; big, genial, straight, with scarce a wrinkle in his face, he does not look the part. Nevertheless, he came to Vail in the employ of the Northwestern railroad in 1867, having charge of the section and living in the section house built at the place where it was hoped to locate a town and which was given the name of Vail in honor of a Northwestern official. Mr. Ryan was born in good old county Tipperary, Ireland, and came to the United States in 1852. He led a life of adventure and hard work, spending several years steam-boating on the Mississippi. During the war he lived in Michigan, and after the war entered the employ of the Northwestern. He tells us that when he first came west he staged from Chicago to Dixon, Illinois, as there was no railroad. When he took charge of the Vail section there was no house in sight except the one in which he lived. In 1869 he helped the surveyors lay out the town of Vail, and the first sign that it was to be more than a name was the coming of Dr. Jas. DeWolf, who erected a one and one-half story building, which he used as a grocery store and residence. He also operated a lumber yard. Dr. DeWolf was the first postmaster, the first merchant, and the first physician, and he was for many years the leading spirit of the town.

Western towns grew quickly in those days. Among the first comers were, J. F. Powers, who put in a stock of furniture; E. B. Bannister, hardware; Mooney and Coleman, general merchandise; Josiah McHenry, who erected the hotel; Jack Liddle, blacksmith; and many others. At a little later period Mr. A. Smutney established a brewery and John Short erected a mill. Among the other pioneer merchants were A. L. Strong, general merchandise; McAndrews and Lucy, hardware; Barrett Bros., general merchandise; John Strohm, elevator; Watson and Greenough, cattle buyers; T. J. and Theodore Hoffman; A. D. Young, and Columbian Alberts, lumber dealers; Wm. Anderton, Wm. Familton, real estate dealers; Dr. E. Darling, now the old time physician.

Denison papers contain some interesting comments on the growth of Vail. The Review of Nov. 8, 1871, says "Two years ago Vail consisted of a sign board and one or two houses occupied by railroad hands." In the spring of 1873, the list of Vail's business men was given as follows, "McHenry, hotel; Mooney and Coleman, store; J. F. Power, furniture store; Strong and VanDeusen, general store; E. B. Bannister, hardware; J. DeWolf, P. M.; Wm. Familton, land

agent; and Chas. Anderton, harness." In November, 1873, The Bulletin notes that Vail, "though young, is making rapid strides toward claiming the title of city. New buildings are going up almost every week, and the land surrounding is almost entirely sold out to actual settlers. J. S. Riggs and Co. are doing a good drug business. Jack Lyddle is kept busy blacksmithing. The efficient road master, T. Ryan, is keeping the section in excellent condition. Vail has three lumber yards and two grain dealers, Messrs. Stone, DeWolf and Young. Moloney Bros. expect to build a two-story building next to Mr. Powers. Mr. Bannister is doing a thriving trade in hardware and Mrs. Bannister is the milliner."

The role of honor for the Vail schools for December, 1873, gives the names of Jennie Young, Julia Mill, Mary Watson, Susie Crisp, Fannie Watson, Maggie Taylor, Clarence Molten, George Coleman, Alvin Coleman, Robt. Crisp, Erastus Brink, Robt. Young and James DeWolf, Jr. Freeman Knowles was the teacher.

By 1874 the business houses of Vail had been largely increased. In addition to those businesses already mentioned, there was a boot and shoe store, another drug store, barber shop, lunch room, two saloons, meat market, another blacksmith shop, two carpenter shops, and three dealers in agricultural implements. The Methodist and Presbyterian churches were organized but neither had houses of worship, and services were held alternately each Sabbath in the school house. Strong and VanDeusen erected a new store building in 1874. James Wood and John Wilson of Vail started a brick yard three miles south. Dr. Walker is also mentioned as having a large practice. The fourth of July was observed at Vail and the following is a list of toasts: Home enterprise, by Col. Wright; Township Toasts, Milford, by J. C. Robinson; Denison, by L. Cornwell; East Boyer, by Hugh McWilliams; Hayes, by J. Dempster; West Side, Robt. Hope; Jackson, by J. Maynard; Stockholm, by C. J. Starr; Iowa, by John Hilsabeck; Otter Creek, by James Jones.

In 1875 the Methodists erected a church 30 by 45 feet in size. It was in 1875, also, that Vail was incorporated. The proposition to incorporate had been twice defeated at Denison and was a burning issue at the county seat at the time that Vail acted, so that it has the honor of being the first incorporated town in Crawford county. An item dated March 31, 1875, in the Denison Review, tells that "Justice DeWolf came to town Monday with a petition signed in due form praying for the incorporation of Vail." On October 6, the same paper congratulates Vail upon its recent incorporation. The first election followed in a short time and the first officers were as follows: Mayor, J. McHenry; Recorder, J. F. Powers; Assessor, E. B. Bannister; Trustees, J. W. Strohm, James McAndrews, W. W. Anderton, A. B. O'Connell, W. VanDeusen. Another item states "Vail, the first incorporated town in Crawford county, is putting on city airs. All its business men are wide awake and full of vim. Its steam mill, erected by John Short, is almost completed. A brewery will shortly be in operation. Ed Ainsworth taught the school in 1875, and had 75 pupils."

The centennial year, 1876, showed rapid growth. Mr. McHenry for mayor, and all the old incorporation officers were reelected. The mill and brewery were in operation, many new side walks were added, \$2,500.00 was voted for a new school house, and ten to fifteen houses were erected during the spring. One of



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF VAIL.

the first sad accidents of the many the county has since known, occurred when Mr. Michael McAndrews was killed by a fall from a fractious horse. This occurred in the main street of Vail. The Vail Catholic Benevolent and Library society was organized March 28, 1876, with A. B. O'Connell, President; Phil Foy, Vice President; M. P. Stephens, Secretary; James McAndrews, Treasurer; A. B. O'Connell and D. F. Lucey, Librarians. Under the heading, "A Trip to Vail," dated August 13, 1879, we find mention of Mr. Leland, who had purchased an interest in the Rigg's drug store, of John Smith, city weigh master, and of Mayor Anderton. Others mentioned are Messrs. Powers, Strong, Fitch, Barret, Casey, Cornwall and McHenry. In November, 1879, W. J. McAhren purchased an interest in the drug store and the firm was known as Leland and McAhren.

The importance of Vail as a shipping point is shown by the following comparative statistics from August 1 to December 15, 1879:

	Vail	Denison
Grain, Carloads shipped	722	484
Stock, Carloads shipped	36	64
Lumber, Carloads received	102	147

The mayors of Vail from the time of its incorporation are as follows: Josiah McHenry, 1876; W. W. Anderton, 1877; A. D. Young, 1879, J. M. Huckstep, 1881; Ed Darling, 1883; A. S. Taylor, 1885; Dr. DeWolf, 1886; W. W. Anderton, 1887; Ed Darling, 1889; John Nesbit, 1890; M. J. Keane, 1891; Emil Kruger, 1894; C. E. Price, 1895; Morris O'Connor, 1900; Richard McGuire, 1908.

The present officers are: Richard McGuire, Mayor; W. A. McGuire, J. J. Dugan, M. R. McGrath, E. Chamberlin and R. Brockelsby, councilmen; J. P. Duffy, Clerk; F. J. Etzel, Day Police; Thos Fitzgibbons, Night Police.

The financial standing of Vail is shown by the fact that it owns water works valued at \$12,000 and a gas plant worth \$5,800.00, and that the present indebtedness for these items is \$3,000. In 1911 \$8,000 additional water bonds were voted for an extension of the water system.

It would be impossible to mention all the early settlers of the eastern part of the county. Mr. Tracy Chapman, of Dunham's grove, was undoubtedly the first settler to remain in that vicinity. W. W. Rodenbaugh and Mathew and Rice Miller came before the war, but the bulk of the settlers came after the building of the railroad. Among the early families (although we must insist again that this is not a complete list), were the McAndrews; the Langers, Barney, Hugh and James; Henry Keller; the Mundy Bros.; the Forests; Shorts; the John Thompsons; the Molseeds; the McAlpins; the Brogans; Dugans; Costellos; Jas E. Walch; Chas. McCollough; Albert Chamberlin; John Harrington; Thomas and Frank Wood; Nick Nelson; John Strohm; Wm. Watson; Wm. Anderton; Columbian Alberts; A. D. Young; Rev. Father Moloney, who purchased one thousand acres in Hayes township for the benefit of his nephews; Mr. Hayes, after whom Hayes township was named; Wm. Kortum, who later returned to Davenport; Wm. Jahn, who came direct from Germany representing a syndicate which purchased land near the five mile house in Hayes township, and who was the fore-runner of the large German popula-

tion of Hayes and Iowa townships; Wm. Familton, representative of the Iowa railroad land company; his assistant, Harry Runyon; Dr. M. Fitzgerald, M. J. Keane, both of whom came in '75; Dan Doherty; the Ginns; Matthew and James King, J. C. Robinson, who were pioneers in eastern Milford; Wm. Fitzsimmons; the Dempsters; Thomas Adams, who settled near the present town of Boyer, and afterward moved to Vail; the Maynards, who made Jackson township their home; the Kral brothers; the Slechtas; the Brockelsbys of Hayes; the O'Connors of East Boyer and a host of others.

One of the most prominent and enduring mercantile establishments was that founded by Barrett Bros., of Dunlap, in 1875. A history of the ownerships of this store will recall much of interest to Vail people. The ownerships were as follows: Barrett Brothers, 1875; Casey and Barrett Bros., 1876; Casey Bros. and Ryan, 1878; Barrett and Ryan, 1880; E. T. Ryan and Co., 1884; Ryan and Ratchford, 1893; and Enenbach Bros., 1910.

Vail has always held a unique and independent position in the county. It has had a trade which was all its own and has manifested a stronger spirit of town loyalty than any other village in the county. Whether in business or of baseball the Vail rooters have always been on deck, ready to expend their last bit of lung power or their last dollar for the benefit of their beloved town. In some respects the business part of Vail is unfortunately located. The town is surrounded by high hills and after extremely heavy rains the main business street has been badly flooded. There has been some talk of moving the business section a block west in order to avoid floods. The improvements are of such a permanent and expensive nature, however, that this does not seem practical and the people of Vail are seeking other remedies for this evil, among which remedies is a new bridge, built by the Northwestern which, if kept clear of obstruction, will afford better drainage. Vail has shown considerable public enterprise. The buildings of the Catholic society are especially fine. There is a good system of water works owned by the city. This consists of a wind mill, a steam pumping station, and a large tank reservoir. Fire protection is afforded by an excellent volunteer fire company provided with hose cart and other necessary apparatus and with fine water pressure. The city owns its lighting plant which is giving good satisfaction. The fun-loving spirit of Vail has found its outlet chiefly in baseball. It has a good ball team every year, has the reputation of being the best ball town of its size in western Iowa and from the ranks of its amateurs have come a number who have won league honors.

Vail has a number of pretty residence streets and the new school building which it is erecting at a cost of \$20,000 is very fine and will meet the needs of the town for years to come.

The business of Vail is represented by the following lines, two banks, newspaper, three general merchandise stores, two elevators, two lumber yards, two hardware stores, two drug stores, three restaurants, three saloons, three barber shops, two millinery stores, two telephone exchanges, two real estate agencies, two garages, hotel, harness shop, livery, two cream stations, one meat market, jewelry store, flour mill, one furniture store, weigh master, auctioneer, photographer, shoe maker, several cattle buyers, two blacksmiths, three physicians, dentist, veterinarian, lawyer. The churches are the Catholic, Methodist, Presbyte-



SCENE ON MAIN STREET, VAIL

rian, and Episcopal, further mention of which will be found in chapters devoted to these sects. The school history of Vail is splendidly outlined by Prof. Z. T. Hawk in another chapter.

There is no reason why Vail with its solid foundation of years of prosperity, with its enterprising business men and with the splendid agricultural country tributary, should not continue to be one of the best trading points in Crawford county.

WHITE OAK CAMP, NO. 72, WOODMEN OF THE WORLD.

This camp was organized September 14, 1895. The charter members were, Patrick Cody, M. Conroy, J. M. Glynn, W. T. Kealey, Patrick Lynch, James McAndrews, Daniel Manning, O. Rowley, John Thompson, Patrick Breen, Patrick Gallagher, Patrick Bierne, Patrick McNamara. The first officers were, J. Thompson, C. C.; O. Rowley, A. L.; James McAndrews, Clerk; Dr. Glynn, Banker and Physician; D. Manning, Escort; Patrick Cody, Watchman; W. T. Kealey, Sentry; Messrs. Thompson, Manning, and Rowley, Managers.

Since its organization the camp has lost three members by death: Orville Rowley, Patrick Breen and Patrick Gallagher. The chief officers of the camp at present are, John Thompson, C. C.; M. R. McGrath, Banker; J. F. Barton, Clerk. This camp now numbers eighteen. It has erected handsome monuments to deceased members and has been of much value in times of sickness and distress.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.

The youngest order in Vail is the newly organized branch of the Chas. Carroll Council of the Knights of Columbus. The council is located at Carroll, Iowa, but the Vail branch is growing rapidly and will soon be able to become independent. The branch was formed in April, 1911, with a membership of fifty-five. More than a score of members will have been added before this book reaches its readers. The present officers of the branch are, J. M. Glynn, G. K.; J. M. Duffy, Secretary; Jas. O'Reilly, Treasurer. The Knights of Columbus is a great and uplifting order composed entirely of members of the Catholic church and the founding of a Council at Vail will do much for the social and intellectual life of the citizen.

DIAMOND LODGE, NO. 422, A. F. & A. M.

Diamond Lodge, No. 422, A. F. & A. M., received its dispensation from Grand Master George B. Van Saun, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, on the 9th of March, 1882, at which time the following officers were installed: Ed Darling, W. M.; C. E. Price, S. W.; and H. Robins, J. W. The charter members were G. W. Birch, W. L. Leland, O. S. Retan, J. E. Edgar, Ed Darling, L. P. Mooney, B. H. Lee, M. Fitzgerald, C. M. Priest, C. E. Price, D. A. Myers, J. W. Maynard, W. M. Anderton, J. F. Long, A. B. Andrus, A. Trinkle, H. Robins, J. C. Robinson, H. Shirtcliff, J. I. Ferron, and N. R. Buckley.

The charter was issued to the lodge on July 5, 1882, and under it the following officers were elected: Ed Darling, W. M.; C. E. Price, S. W.; H. Robins, J. W.; J. F. Long, Treasurer; J. E. Edgar, Secretary; T. W. Butler, S. D.;

C. M. Priest, J. D.; A. B. Andeus, S. S.; L. P. Mooney, J. S.; and N. R. Buckley, Tyler.

At present the lodge has a membership of fifty-four, and in addition to these fifteen of their members have passed away, namely: A. B. Andrus, J. F. Long, W. W. Anderton, T. W. Butler, E. Bagley, E. B. Bannister, J. C. Robinson, A. M. Tanner, J. W. Maynard, E. M. Lewis, A. J. Moore, D. Tempest, R. A. Nicholson, Bert Nelson, and A. Trinkle.

They own their own building, free from all indebtedness, where their assembly room is handsomely fitted up, and the lodge may be said to be in a flourishing condition.

The present officers are: Henry Stuck, W. M.; Ed Darling, S. W.; W. E. Mason, J. W.; Ben Olson, Treasurer; L. L. Hoffman, Secretary; G. E. Dingman, S. D.; Jno. Nelson, J. D.; Frank Wulf, S. S.; Jno. Stagleman, J. S.; W. H. Lawton, Tyler.

VAIL HOMESTEAD, NO. 659, BROTHERHOOD AMERICAN YEOMEN.

Vail Homestead, No. 659, B. A. Y., was organized on December 28, 1900, by H. F. Parsons, with the following charter members: Ed C. Weir, C. W. Day, R. C. Evison, James S. Watson, R. C. W. Mier, W. H. Brockelsby, Charles Roan, W. F. Shove, Albert Pound, H. E. Bowman, Maurice O'Connor, J. R. Brockelsby, C. C. Vail, L. L. Hoffman, Loren Imes, A. B. O'Connell, E. W. Chamberlain, Jno. A. McCutcheon, George Novotne, William Kimes, and M. G. Allbrook. The officers elected were, Maurice O'Connor, Foreman; C. C. Vail, Master of Ceremonies; L. L. Hoffman, Correspondent; W. F. Shove, Master of Accounts; H. E. Bowman, Chaplain; Albert Pound, Sentinel; Charles Roan, Guard.

From the beginning the Homestead has enjoyed a steady growth and although it is the youngest fraternal order in the city it ranks next to the largest in membership. They now have one hundred and twenty-five members and have been very fortunate in losing only two members by death since the date of organization, these being Mrs. Lulu Brockelsby and William W. White. Deputy G. B. Conklin, of Sioux City, Iowa, visited the Homestead last winter and through his efforts the membership at that time was increased from sixty-three to one hundred and twenty-five, its present number.

The officers now are, E. W. Chamberlain, Foreman; A. E. Chamberlain, Correspondent; M. J. Monaghan, Master of Ceremonies; S. A. Kral, Master of Accounts, Mrs. Alice Chamberlain, Chaplain; B. A. Wahlin, Overseer; Mrs. A. J. Adams, Rowena; Miss Alice Brockelsby, Rebecca; A. J. Adams, Sentinel; Jess Rasmussen, Watchman; Vincent O'Donnell, Guard; Mrs. Rose Maynard, Currier; and Helen Kral, Organist.

VAIL CAMP, NO. 3057, MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA.

Vail Camp, No. 3057, Modern Woodmen of America, was fathered by J. P. Smith, Dr. J. M. Glynn and Dr. W. T. Wright. On the evening of June 27, 1895, they met in the Masonic Hall to organize. Deputy Peter Stephany of

Manning had charge and those who met with them were Simon Lawler, G. L. Dieter, J. P. Duffy, M. E. Ryan, M. P. Ryan, J. W. Spitzbarth, C. E. Winans, P. J. Portz, A. Short, L. W. Kinyon, and M. O'Connor. The officers chosen were M. O'Connor, V. C.; A. Short, W. A.; M. E. Ryan, Banker; L. W. Kinyon, Clerk. The present membership is 117 beneficial, and 19 social members. The present officers are, C. C. Wood, V. C.; John Duffy, W. A.; J. M. Duffy, Banker; W. A. Maguire, Clerk; J. M. Glynn, Physician. The camp has lost by death the following members, H. Ahrenkiel, M. McCombs, J. H. Alfson, M. E. Ryan, James Mangan, Thos. Burk.

The Modern Woodmen is the strongest fraternal organization in Vail. It owns a hall which is rented for various kinds of entertainments, the proceeds going to pay the dues of the members. The Woodmen also have a fine uniform band of twenty-three pieces which was organized in 1908, and which is the pride of the city.

CHAPTER XLIII.

WEST SIDE.

The station at West Side was established soon after the building of the Chicago Northwestern railway. The first sign of habitation was the section house and railway station. James Gillespie was the section foreman and H. C. Newton the station agent. It was not long, however, until settlers commenced to come in; among the first arrivals being Isaac and Robert Patterson, who bought lands near the present town of West Side paying \$4.00 an acre for the sections which they purchased through Morris McHenry, the land agent. J. J. Woolhiser was another early arrival and M. Smith and F. J. Gary were among the first business men. The Denison Review of October 23, 1869, says that "West Side is now a town—or of town lots at least." In 1871, the wheat acreage of West Side township is given as 1003 acres. In November the number of persons of school age is given as 42 males and 28 females. T. E. Lampman was the first to engage in the mercantile business. In 1872, is reported that "a blacksmith shop and store have recently sprung into existence in West Side—ditto one or two residences." In 1873, appears the following description of the town and its business men.

The town of West Side has an excellent location, situated in the extreme eastern part of Crawford County in the midst of a thriving farming community, and yet its growth appears to be very slow. Here it is that the railroad company has a turn-table and two large water tanks, it being the evident intention of the railroad company to make this place the location for an extra engine to assist heavily loaded freight trains over the summit.

The railroad business for this year to June 1st, as furnished us by Mr. Chas. B. Smith, station agent, is \$7,205.99. The postoffice is located at the depot under charge of the agent.

Judge Lampman was the first to engage in the mercantile business here; recently he disposed of his business to Mr. Carl Weidling, a thorough-going and enterprising merchant.

E. House is doing a wholesale business in the hardware and agricultural implement trade, running in connection therewith an extensive blacksmith shop.

Messrs. Smith and Gary are the lumber and grain merchants of the place, and are also dealers in agricultural machinery and have desirable business quarters.

West Side is also the home of Freeman Knowles, who is by profession a lawyer, by trade a carpenter, and for recreation a telegraph implement manufacturer and operator; in fact he is an adept at most anything with the exception of white-washing. Freeman has a comfortable and nice looking residence and is plying the carpenter trade with diligence. He has the contract of building a schoolhouse at that place for the sum of \$1,300.00, to be completed by the 1st of October. In size it will be 24x30 feet and an undoubted ornament to the town.

It appears to be the prevailing opinion that the slow growth of the place is materially retarded by the selfish action of the Iowa Railroad Land Company. If we are correctly informed it is almost impossible to purchase business property at any price, the most valuable lots being entirely withdrawn from the market. A suitable lot could not be secured for school purposes and in order to obtain it recourse to law was necessary. It strikes us that such a course is suicidal to the best interests of the place and we can see no object in it unless it be to retard the growth of the place in order that Vail may be built up. If we are in error in any of our premises we are perfectly willing to be corrected. Every true citizen desires to see all sections of the county advance, and if it is true that a corporation is conspiring to retard the growth of any place that fact should be generally known.

A few miles to the southeast of here is a flourishing German settlement who are said to be the best of citizens and that they are literally making the prairie to bloom.

From the outset West Side promised to be quite an important railroad town and for many years it was a freight division, making it the home of a number of railroad employees. The increased capacity of locomotives, in time made this division unnecessary and deprived West Side of this source of income.

Among the other West Side notes during 1873, we find the following: "E. W. Sargeant, an attorney at West Side, has formed a partnership with J. D. Miracle of Denison." In November, 1873, there is the following:

West Side can boast of having the neatest looking schoolhouse of any town of its size along the railroad. It reflects credit upon the liberality of the people and merit for the ability of the contractor.

C. B. Grace presides with good grace over the railroad business of this place (West Side), plays with the chained lightning, handles Uncle Sam's mail matter and sees to it that the express seals are not illegitimately broken and is also ready to consider matrimonial proposals.

Messrs. John Cranny & Co. in a few days will engage in the lumber and coal business.

That startling young merchant, C. Weidling—German by birth but American all over in energy and spirit, has moved into new quarters.

Mr. House has in Mr. Laub of Denison a partner; and the firm is now rushing business as rapidly as it can be rushed.

Freeman Knowles is now "slinging lightning," Mr. Head being away on a vacation.



VIEW OF MAIN STREET, WEST SIDE



CHICAGO & NORTHWESTERN DEPOT, WEST SIDE

Mr. M. Hale Smith has engaged in the auctioneer business and is also real estate and insurance agent and has his office with J. F. Powers.

In December of the same year the railroad water tank at West Side was completely destroyed by fire entailing a loss of \$4,000.

That the community was growing rapidly is shown by the school report for the term ending Feb. 2nd, 1874. The number of pupils enrolled was 32 and the average daily attendance 18. In the spring of 1874, Mr. House, who had formed a partnership with H. C. Laub of Denison erected the largest building then in West Side. This structure was two stories high and the dimensions were 40x50 feet. The lower floor was used as a store room while the upper part was divided, one part being used by Mr. House for a residence, and the other part being finished off for a public hall. In 1874 also, Mr. A. Hartney built the West Side hotel, a building which is still occupied for hotel purposes. Other new enterprises in this year were a meat market, and a steam flouring mill.

The rivalry between West Side and Vail began early, not only in business but in sports, and the West Side people were highly delighted when their "Free and Easies" defeated the Vail ball players on the West Side grounds by a score of 45 to 44. West Side did not escape the prairie zephyrs of those early days as is shown by the fact that in June, 1874, Smith and Gary's lumber yard suffered considerable damage from a wind storm and a new house four miles southeast belonging to E. A. Dexter, was completely wrecked.

The little village thrived through the succeeding years and in April 1875, a West Side correspondent reports "Fifteen carloads of household goods have arrived during the past ten days and our streets have been filled with strangers who will soon be numbered amongst our neighbors. Several hundred of acres of land have been sold during the same period betokening further accesses to the population to the vicinity, whilst in town three new buildings are in process of erection and several more will soon be under way." E. P. Savage was one of the new business men added during 1875, and S. S. Burlingame, who purchased the hardware and grocery departments of the House and Laub store, was another.

Rev. Rockwell was perhaps the first to bring the gospel message to West Side. He was an itinerant preacher and filled a number of appointments. His work in West Side seems to have borne fruit for as early as August, 1875, the West Side correspondent mentions the need of a meeting house and also urges the erection of a new school house as, owing to the rapid increase of population, it was thought that the school house then built would scarcely accommodate the pupils. Dr. L. L. Bond, settled in West Side in 1875 and became one of the leading and most highly respected citizens of the new village.

In the fall of this year West Side was visited by another severe storm and it is noted that the Hartney house was flooded and the side walk on Main street moved bodily into the middle of the road.

In the closing days of the year 1875 there appears quite a lengthy descriptive article concerning West Side from which we take the following items:

"At the commencement of 1875 our population was less than two hundred. We have now fully three hundred. During the year there were eleven births

and two deaths. The interests of religion are well attended to by ministers of the Methodist Episcopal church. Two lodges, the Masons and the Good Templars have been organized. Thirty new buildings were added during the year, nine of which are occupied as business places. Smith and Gary, grain, live stock and coal merchants head the list. They being among the oldest firms and their business the most extensive and varied. Their business for the year amounted to \$75,000, and they shipped 150 cars of grain, ten cars of hogs and eight of cattle. They give constant employment to fifteen men. Mr. Wayne of Carroll had an agent purchasing grain and his shipments were about seven thousand bushels. Blackman and Company report sales for ten months amounting to \$30,000. They also engage in building and have erected during that time twenty-five residences, five business places, three school houses and two livery stables. They employ ten men. E. T. Savage reports sales of twenty-seven thousand dollars in lumber and coal, in addition to large sales of agricultural implements. House and Laub figure their dry goods business at \$23,000. Weidling and Evers, general merchants and dealers in agricultural implements, had sales of \$40,000. Mr. Burlingame did a business of \$10,000. Drs. Satterlee and Patterson, dealers in drugs, paints, etc., report annual sales of \$6,000. Mr. Taylor, manager of the drug store, was also the postmaster. Other business men mentioned are W. B. Laub, W. N. Becker, F. St. Helm, Mr. Whipple, furniture dealer, Mr. Spottswood, harness maker, F. Brown, and Mr. Adams, blacksmiths. The steam mill had been running almost constantly and had ground out eighty-five thousand bushels of wheat and forty thousand bushels of other grain. Dr. L. L. Bond had a large and successful practice."

In March, 1876, it is reported that "the dull times of February have been succeeded by a livelier trade. New emigrants have been rapidly pouring in and settlements are being made both north and south."

The advent of Mr. Johnson, who was said to be "one of the finest boot makers in the west," is mentioned, and among the business changes it is recorded that A. S. Hayne took the place of E. House the retiring member of the firm of House and Laub. I. B. Nelson also is mentioned as having rented Mr. Cox's interest in the West Side mill, thus obtaining exclusive control.

In May of 1876, the West Side correspondent notes that "the Methodists contemplate erecting a house of worship this summer."

A trial of sulkey plows is also noted as having taken place on the premises of J. J. Woolhiser. Four practical farmers, Michael Winters, B. F. Parker, Clark Everson and R. C. Everson were chosen as judges.

A new hardware store owned by Mr. Parks was another addition to the new town. In June 1876, E. P. Savage sold his lumber and coal business to F. M. Blashfield of Grand Mound, Iowa, Mr. Savage continuing in the implement business. In 1879, a Denison visitor to West Side says "There were quite a number of teams in town. The steam mill is doing a good business and has extensive trade. Messrs. Ward Matthews and Baer, formerly of Denison, were hard at work selling goods. R. B. Taylor has gone into the hardware business. West Side will have a new school house in another year, several new buildings have gone up and the business men seem to have their share of patronage."



GERMAN VEREIN, WEST SIDE



GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH, WEST SIDE

The first settlement of West Side was distinctively American and was made up quite largely of veterans of the Civil war. At one time, with not more than three hundred population, West Side had a Grand Army post of thirty members. Death and removals have thinned the ranks until there are but two of these veterans remaining, Mr. Isaac Patterson and Mr. Fred Bock, and the Grand Army post has long since given up its charter. While the settlement around Vail was largely by those of Irish descent, West Side became more and more Germanized, this element gradually becoming ascendent in the community. In point of population West Side has barely held its own since those prosperous days of 1880. Its present population is 367 as against 396 in 1900. In volume of business, however, it has shown a steady increase and it now has a number of wealthy and well established business institutions, many handsome homes, good schools, and three churches, the Methodist Episcopal, Catholic, and German Lutheran.

The growth of the German element is evidenced by the organization of the Germania Verein in 1889. J. H. C. Peters was the first president of this society and has for many years been its secretary. D. H. C. Schutt is the present president. In 1893 this society erected a fine hall at an expense of \$8,000, and the society is now nearly free from debt.

The first ordinance indicating the boundaries of the incorporated town of West Side is dated February 21, 1879, and is signed by C. Weidling, mayor, and L. L. Bond, recorder. According to the minute books of the city council the following have held the office of mayor, C. Weidling, 1879-1881; E. C. Haywood, 1887; A. P. Fellingham, 1889; George S. Ohnsman, 1892; J. H. C. Peters, mayor protem, 1894; John F. Grote, mayor protem, 1894; L. L. Bond, 1895-1900; J. H. C. Peters, mayor protem, 1900; F. J. Herre, 1904; George E. Spottswood, 1906; C. L. Patterson, 1908; J. H. C. Peters, mayor protem, P. H. Dohse, the present mayor. The other town officers now are: E. J. Peters, clerk; C. W. Payne, treasurer; James Nickelsen, marshal; and Henry Moeller, J. H. C. Peters, Peter Sievers, D. H. C. Schutt and E. B. Spottswood, councilmen.

The city has one of the best systems of water works and the best provision for fire protection of any town of its size in Iowa. The water works cost \$14,000 and though the city is still in debt to some extent for this improvement, it is felt that the money was well expended. The fire department is a volunteer company of twenty men, Emil Evers, chief; P. H. Dohse, secretary; and E. B. Spottswood, treasurer. Business meetings are held monthly and fire drills are held twice a month from May to November. The water works is the gravity system with a large well, a gasoline engine, with pumping capacity of 125 gallons per minute, and a steel water tank, 162 feet high, with capacity of 40,000 gallons. There are one and one-half miles of main with eleven double hydrants. The fire equipment consists of a hose cart, with 600 feet of hose, a hook and ladder wagon, and a chemical engine with capacity of one hundred gallons.

The German character of the town is again indicated by its music loving characteristic. It has the oldest and one of the best uniformed bands in the county. This organization has been in existence continuously for seven years and owns a number of valuable instruments and has a considerable nest egg in its treasury. There are sixteen members of the band, A. J. Kelly is president

of the association, W. T. Dohse, secretary, and E. B. Spottswood, treasurer, while the jolly mayor, P. H. Dohse, is manager and leader.

The Lutheran church is another German institution. Rev. Carl Fauth is the present pastor. The church property, consisting of church building and parsonage, is valued at \$5,000, and is free from debt, while the membership is large and zealous.

West Side has furnished to the county many of its strongest men, aside from those already mentioned A. B. Catt, Dr. A. Waterman, John F. Grote, Captain Melvin Smith, and many others have left a lasting impress upon the county.

The business of West Side to-day is represented by the following: The Valley Bank, owned by Mr. C. W. Payne, one of the wealthiest and most philanthropic citizens of the county; E. B. Spottswood, is cashier and E. D. Dannatt assistant; The Farmers Bank, owned by J. H. C. Peters, with E. J. Peters and A. C. Peters assisting in the management; The Journal, edited by Max Hueschen; H. J. Moeller and The Dewey Mercantile Company, general merchants; The West Side Drug Company owned by C. L. and A. B. Patterson, and Peter Sievers drugs; Evers and Martens hardware, furniture and implements; Patterson and Campbell, carrying the same line and also dealing in automobiles; Henry Pahl, harness maker; C. R. Craft, postmaster and confectioner; A. D. Starek, barber; S. P. McGarvey, hotel; A. Kracht, livery; Fred Sierks, jewelry; West Side Lumber Company, West Side Roller Mills, owned by Thos. Buton; C. L. and J. C. Patterson, physicians; A. L. Gilson, blacksmith; Henry and John Munn, carpenters; J. H. Sheldorf, automobiles; Frank Glasscock, meats; H. C. Bock, cream agent; Gary and Voss, grain and stock buyers; A. L. Kelly, and Charles Martens, saloons; John Schluter, dray; W. N. Walters, agent Northwestern railway; Dr. Biernes, veterinarian; West Side telephone company of which J. H. C. Peters is secretary, and R. B. Harrison, manager.

West Side is in the heart of what is perhaps the richest agricultural section of Crawford county and, consequently of Iowa. Its merchants carry extensive stocks, its banks are noted for their wealth and stability. It is the home of a number of wealthy retired farmers and it enjoys the confidence and affection of a large clientage. There seems to be no reason why the coming years should not bespeak continued prosperity and while it is improbable, perhaps, that West Side will ever become a large city, it will nevertheless continue to maintain itself as a prosperous business center and the location of many happy homes.

Accounts of the Methodist and Catholic churches of West Side appear in the chapters devoted to those denominations.

In Fraternal orders the Masonic Lodge, Setting Sun Lodge number 349, is the oldest organization. The Good Templars and the Grand Army of the Republic both had strong organizations at one time but these have passed away.

The Highland Nobles now the American Nobles, was instituted in West Side in 1899 and is known as Dunavaty Lodge, No. 55. Mr. Gus Gradert was the first secretary, but it was not until 1906 that regular officers were elected, these were, Edward Peters, protector; J. C. Kaschube, councillor; Mrs. M. J. Campbell, Chaplain; Peter Sievers, secretary. The lodge at present holds no regular

meetings and is constituted simply as an insurance order. It now has seventy-three members in good standing. Mr. Peter Sievers is the popular secretary and is an enthusiastic and intelligent supporter of the order. Since its organization the lodge has lost two members by death, Mr. Peter Switzer and Mrs. Elizabeth E. Evers, wife of August Evers. Accident benefits have also been paid in two instances.

West Side Camp, No. 2991, M. W. A., is the foremost social organization in point of membership, there being ninety members on its roll. The camp holds its meetings in the Masonic hall and its gatherings are among the leading social events of the town. The present officers are, H. J. Moeller, V. C.; P. H. Dohse, W. A.; L. Schomberg, Banker; Emil Evers, Clerk; M. Kracht, Sentry; Wm. Pacholge, Watchman; R. T. White, Escort; Thos. Buton, E. B. Spottswood, and P. H. Dohse, managers. The camp has lost three members by death, George Spottswood, Fred J. Herre, and Walter F. Evers. It is in excellent financial condition and its membership is strong and enthusiastic. It received its charter May 24, 1895, and its charter members were: H. C. Boock, E. M. Clark, J. A. Cummings, Emil Evers, Gustav Grodert, J. F. Grote, W. E. Hart, J. C. Kaschube, W. D. Long, H. J. Moeller, S. B. McGarvey, Henry Pahl, D. H. C. Schutt and H. C. Smith.

Setting Sun Lodge, No. 349, A. F. & A. M. received its charter June 6, 1876, and its first officers were: M. Smith, W. M.; C. N. Levy, S. W.; and B. E. Allen, J. W.

CHAPTER XLIV.

OTHER TOWNS OF THE COUNTY.

Aspinwall, located near the center of Iowa township, was established at the time of the construction of the Chicago and Milwaukee railway. For a time it was quite a flourishing trading point and it still has considerable business as it is located in a very rich territory. Manning to the east and Manilla to the west have proven formidable rivals. It contains a post office, a good general store, blacksmith shop, elevator, and creamery. It has always been noted for its excellent school.

Astor was founded at the same time as Aspinwall and at first bid fair to be the metropolis of southern Crawford. As we have already mentioned, the building of Manilla, but two miles north-east caused an exodus from Astor, although it has maintained its identity as a pleasant little village. It has a good store, a good school and a post office.

Buck Grove is located near the center of Washington township, on the Sioux City branch of the Chicago Milwaukee railway. It has good trade territory and is in many ways an ambitious and thriving little town. It is incorporated and its mayors have been J. T. Slater, A. F. Bonney, George Dieber, and John Finnegan. The population is about one hundred, with three churches, German Lutheran, Catholic, and Methodist. None of these have resident pastors, however. George Carpenter was the first postmaster and Mrs. A. F. Bonney is postmistress at present. The business of the town is represented by the following, Wm. Arndt and C. O. Wulzine, merchants; Ben Quatham, hardware; Quatham and Finnegan, furniture; J. P. Welch, blacksmith; The Farmers Lumber Company, H. Asmus, manager; James Hain, wagon maker; D. Hemphill, Banker; W. L. Morton, station agent; Mrs. M. Vogt, hotel; F. Bonney, drug store; Neola Elevator Company, John Finnegan, manager; H. Newbaum, saloon keeper; Thos. McGuire, section foreman; Dr. A. F. Bonney, a man of much fame as a writer; Joseph Brewster, liveryman and town marshal.

Buck Grove has shown considerable civic pride. It has a number of neat homes, cement walks, and creditable schools.

Boyer is located in Stockholm township and is a junction point where the Mondamin line of the Northwestern joins the Wall Lake division. This gives the village considerable importance as a transfer point. Mr. C. S. Johnson is the chief merchant and the town has an excellent hall, good schools, and together

with Deloit, supports a Methodist Episcopal church of which Rev. Wall is pastor.

Ells is a station and post office on the Illinois Central and is located about a mile south of Boyer in Stockholm township. Mr. B. F. Ells is the principal business man.

Old Kiron is located in the north-west corner of Stockholm township. It is still the home of a number of Swedish pioneers but the business of the place is conducted at New Kiron, located a trifle over a mile to the west.

Ricketts, located in the south-east corner of Soldier township, on the Mondamin branch of the Chicago Northwestern, is the most pretentious and thriving of the smaller towns of the county. It is almost exclusively a German community, although at one time swept by a fire which consumed almost the entire business section, it has been rebuilt and is a wide awake community. It boasts numerous business houses among which are A. F. Baak and J. H. Detlefs, general merchants; I. N. Vollerson, the popular mayor and manager of the Green Bay Lumber Co.; The German Savings Bank with P. H. Claussen as cashier; Peter C. Peterson hotel; T. J. Munster, hotel; Gustav Rickert, saloon; Max Wulf, blacksmith.



"AFTER THE FIRE." AT RICKETTS



VIEW OF BOYER JUNCTION

CONCLUSION.

This history has been written with two objects in view. First, to present the facts of the past for the enjoyment of the present and, second, to present the facts of the present for the enjoyment of the future. It has been hoped not only to give a readable account of the history of the county up to the present time, but to give such facts as should afford a solid basis for some succeeding historian and to make it a reference book for the future. For this reason many things have been included which, it must be confessed, make dry reading if one takes the volume in hand as one would a work of fiction. Nevertheless it is believed that these facts, these lists of names and dates, are of value and should be permanently preserved.

To be honest, the writer feels that with the close of the work he is just commencing to be competent to begin the work. No one will be more aware of the many defects than will he. The work was commenced in October, 1910, but from the pressure of other business only occasional time could be devoted to it. In the course of its preparation the files of both the Denison Review and the Denison Bulletin have been freely used and the publishers of these papers are to be thanked for the courtesy extended in the loan of these files. Use was also made of the writings of a number of pioneers, and as far as possible they have been allowed to tell the story in their own words. In regard to the roster of the old soldiers, Mr. J. L. Richardson rendered valuable service. Mr. Z. T. Hawk devoted a vast amount of energy and intelligence to the history of our schools. The special chapters on church history were most carefully prepared. The Iowa State Historical Society afforded every possible courtesy and help. Assistant State Geologist Lees contributed a valuable chapter. One of the most interesting sources of early history was the diary of Mr. A. F. Bond. In fact hundreds of people have contributed to the making of this volume and the writer has simply tried to be their mouthpiece. It has been very largely a labor of love, love for the dear old county, love for the kind friends who have stood ready to make smooth all the rough places of life, love for the home where loved ones have lived and wrought and died, love for the dimpled hills and tree clad valleys and love for the great country of which Crawford county is so fair a part. If this history shall be acceptable to the people of Crawford county, the writer will feel that his life has not been in vain.

INDEX

Accidental Deaths	395	Modern Woodmen of America.....	410
Acker, Jacob	150	Woodmen of the World.....	410
Admission of the State.....	32	Congressional Districts	129
Agricultural Society	192	Conner, J. P.	218
Allen, Isaac, Killed	157	County Government	77
Arion	403	County Officers in 1884.....	99
Aspinwall	473	County Safe Robbed.....	91
Astor	473	County Seat Located at Denison.....	80
Australian Ballot	102	County Superintendents	298
Banks and Banking.....	351	Courthouse	95, 103, 221, 224
Bassett, John Richardson	77	Crawford, William Harris	34
Black Hawk Purchase.....	24	Crawford County, Its Birth.....	33
Board of Supervisors in 1879.....	98	Crawford County Location.....	9
“ “ “ “ 1880.....	98	Crawford County Attached to Shelly	
“ “ “ “ 1881.....	98	County	54
“ “ “ “ 1882.....	99	Crawford County Census.....	400
“ “ “ “ 1883.....	99	Crawford County Schools.....	295
“ “ “ “ 1885.....	99	Crawford County Sunday School Associa-	
“ “ “ “ 1886.....	100	tion	285
Board of Supervisors' Action Relative to		Crawford County in 1869.....	163
Civil War	85	“ “ 1870.....	165
Bold Robbery	201	“ “ 1873.....	167
Bond, A. F.	49, 148, 157	“ “ 1874.....	186
Boundaries of the State	31	“ “ 1880.....	181
Boyer	473	“ “ 1884.....	183
Buck Grove	473	“ “ 1885.....	187
Buffalo Visits Denison	57	“ “ 1886.....	190
Briggs, Ansel	33	“ “ 1887.....	192
Catholic Church	285	“ “ 1888.....	194
Census of 1860.....	151	“ “ 1890.....	186
Charter Oak	407	“ “ 1891.....	198
Presbyterian Church	275	“ “ 1893.....	200
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran		“ “ 1894.....	202
Church	262	“ “ 1895.....	204
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran		“ “ 1896.....	206
Church	262	“ “ 1897.....	207
Charter Oak School.....	324	“ “ 1898.....	209
Live Oak Lodge.....	409	“ “ 1899.....	210
Charter Oak Lodge, No. 105, I. O. O. F.....	409	“ “ 1900.....	215
Rebekah Lodge	410	“ “ 1901.....	218
		“ “ 1902.....	220
		“ “ 1903.....	221
		“ “ 1904.....	223

- Crawford County in 1905.....224
 " " 1906.....225
 " " 1907.....228
 " " 1908.....229
 " " 1909.....230
 " " 1910.....232
 " " 1911.....234
 Death Roll of Pioneers.....385
 Deloit50, 413
 Deloit School303
 Denison131
 Its Founding132
 Early Settlers149
 Early Days141
 Denison Organizations237
 Masonic Order237
 Sylvan Chapter, O. E. S.....238
 Daughters of the American Revolution239
 Improved Order of Red Men.....240
 Chapter Coe, P. E. O.....241
 Sidonia Lodge, No. 393, I. O. O. F.....241
 Rebekah Lodge242
 Denison Lodge, No. 626, I. O. O. F.....242
 Brotherhood of American Yeomen.....242
 German Mutual Insurance Company .243
 Royal Highlanders243
 Denison Lodge, No. 80, F. B. R. S.....244
 Dowdall Lodge, No. 90, K. P.....244
 Woodmen of the World.....245
 Germania Verein245
 Modern Woodmen of America.....246
 Mystic Workers of the World.....246
 German Brotherhood247
 German Landwehrverein247
 Women's Clubs247
 First Baptist Church.....251
 School304
 High School191
 High School Alumni312
 Denison as a Trade Center.....174, 190
 Denison as a Manufacturing Town.....175
 Denison, J. W.....131, 135, 141
 Denison's First Street Fair.....220
 Denison Improvement Association.....185
 Denison Library172, 184, 224
 Denison and Normal Business College.326
 Disastrous Flood187
 Dobson, Thomas43, 141
 His Address, July 4, 1876.....59
 Dodge, Henry26
 Dow City439
 A. F. & A. M.....453
 I. O. O. F.....454
 The Red Men454
 Modern Woodmen of America.....455
 School319
 Early Discoveries9
 Early Marriages204
 Early Settlers37
 Elections113
 Election of 1862.....84
 " " 1863.....85
 " " 1876.....97, 175
 Ells474
 Episcopal Church255
 First Agricultural Society.....89
 Fourth of July, Crawford County Celebrates Its First50
 First Irishman401
 First Mill75
 First Newspaper151, 155
 First Officers77
 First Real Criminal Sensation.....80
 First Supervisors81
 First Telegraph Line90
 First Threshing Machine.....160
 First Twins Born in the County.....54
 First War Meeting Recorded.....160
 Geology of Crawford County.....391
 German Immigration181
 German Methodist Church.....273
 Goldheim, Meyer198, 199
 Goodrich46
 Good Roads Movement.....86
 Grasshoppers161, 178
 Great Rains and Floods.....57
 Great Ridge Road398
 Herd Law89
 Horse Thieves159
 Indians in this County10
 Indian Scare58, 83, 151, 157
 Indian Troubles21, 75
 Iowa a Part of Michigan.....25
 Iowa a Part of Wisconsin.....26
 Iowa Territory17, 29
 Judicial Districts128
 Kiron and the Swedish Settlement.....417
 Latter Day Saints.....290
 Laub, H. C.142
 Lawson, G. C.....74
 Legislative History125
 Log Rollings74
 Louisiana Purchase16
 Lucas, Robert29
 Lutheran Church260

Methodists of Crawford County.....	48, 263	Railroads	152, 161, 210
McHenry, Morris	48, 70, 104	Ricketts	474
McHenry, W. A.....	191		
McKim, Martin and Wife.....	184	Salary of Officers.....	80
Manilla	423	Schleswig and Germans.....	433
Knights of Pythias.....	429	Sons of Herman Lodge, No. 17.....	436
Pythian Sisters	429	Pretoria Lodge, No. 696, I. O. O. F.....	437
Golden Leaf Lodge, No. 595, A. F. &		Schleswig School	325
A. M.	430	School Fund in 1860.....	80
Botna Valley Lodge, No. 312, I. O. O. F.	431	Search for Coal	96
Forest Camp, No. 195, W. O. W.....	431	Securing Volunteers	87
Modern Woodmen Camp, No. 2843....	431	Settlers of the Early '50s.....	40
Royal Neighbors	432	Shaw, Leslie Mortimer.....	111
Westminster Circle	432	Soldiers Home	190
Kappa Yeata Club	432	Soldiers of the Civil War.....	329
Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church.	261	Spanish-American War	347
First Presbyterian Church.....	276	Statistics in 1910.....	106
German Evangelical Church.....	261	Storms	179, 181, 182, 211
School	322	Swamp Lands	82
McHenry Hall	90		
Mason, Jesse	44	Tax Levy for 1862.....	84
Molony, A. D.	86, 100	Terrible Fight	172
Mormons	39	Three Early Settlers in the Civil War...	70
		Todd, W. J.....	46
New Era	161	Township Boundaries	79
Nishnabotny	423	Township Organization	53
		Tragedies	381
Old Kiron	474	Train Run Down.....	212
O'Conner's, Patrick, Execution.....	24	Turner's Guide to the Rocky Mountains.	153
Old Settlers' Association	369		
Old Settlers' Picnic	202, 203, 205, 211		
		Union Soldiers Who Have Resided in	
Patriotic Organizations	343	Crawford County	333
Plimpton, E. S.	49	Union Township	439
Politics	109	Unprecedented Flood	229
Poor House Destroyed by Fire.....	104		
Population of the County in 1875.....	172	Vail and Vicinity	457
Postal Facilities	158	White Oak Camp, No. 72, W. O. W....	461
Postmasters	159	Knights of Columbus.....	461
Prairie Fires	68, 178	Diamond Lodge, No. 422, A. F. & A. M.	461
Prentice, Franklin	40	Vail Homestead, No. 659, Brotherhood	
Presbyterianism in Crawford County...	274	American Yeomen	462
Press	359	Vail Camp, No. 3057, M. W. A.....	462
Denison Bulletin	362	Catholic Church	189
Vail Observer	363	Presbyterian Church	277
Die Denison Zeitung.....	363	School	314
Crawford County Demokrat.....	364		
Dow City Enterprise.....	364	West Side	465
Charter Oak Times.....	364	West Side School	321
Schleswig Leader	366	Wicks, B. F.	63
Kiron Newspapers	366	Wild Animals	67, 79
Manilla Enterprise	366	Wild Fruit	68
West Side Journal	367	Winter of 1856-7.....	46
		Wright, A. S.....	144
Prohibitory Amendment	99, 190	Wright, O. S.....	46
Question of Incorporation.....	169	Yale Family	38
Question of Slavery	27		



Abstract The purpose of this study was to determine whether there were differences in the prevalence of risk factors for coronary artery disease between two groups of men who had been exposed to asbestos during their working lives. One group consisted of men who had worked in asbestos-related occupations and the other group consisted of men who had never worked in such occupations. The prevalence of risk factors for coronary artery disease was determined by means of a questionnaire and physical examination. The results showed that the prevalence of risk factors for coronary artery disease was significantly higher in the group of men who had worked in asbestos-related occupations than in the group of men who had never worked in such occupations. This suggests that exposure to asbestos may be associated with an increased risk of developing coronary artery disease.

3 1197 21335 2690

Date Due

All library items are subject to recall at any time.

[illegible]

Brigham Young University

